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HISTORY
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OF
—
WOODSTOCK, VERMONT
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BY
HENRY SWAN DANA

ILLUSTRATED



BOSTON AND NEW YORK
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY
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Copyright, 1889,
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XROY WAB
XJUBA
YABABU

To
MY HIGHLY RESPECTED FRIEND,
FREDERICK BILLINGS,
WHO BY HIS ENTERPRISE, HIS GENEROUS HOSPITALITY,
AND HIS
FREE AND MUNIFICENT SPIRIT,
HAS CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH
TO MAKE WOODSTOCK PLEASANT AND ATTRACTIVE,
I DEDICATE THIS BOOK.

HENRY SWAN DANA.

November 1, 1888.

PREFACE.

MORE than twenty years ago I prepared and published in the "Vermont Standard" a sketch of the first meeting-house erected in Woodstock, called "The Old Log Meeting-House." This sketch was followed by others of similar character, till at length a large amount of matter of some local interest had been collected. About this time, my old friend and schoolmate, Frederick Billings, urged that the material thus collected should be utilized, and, with other material relating to the history of Woodstock, be embodied in a book. To his earnest solicitations it is due that the volume here presented to the public was prepared; and it is proper to add that Mr. Billings has been at the whole expense of its publication.

Born in the village of Woodstock in 1823, I have passed all my life in this place, excepting about eight years next after my graduation at Dartmouth College in 1849, which were spent at the South in teaching. Many of the incidents and characters, if not the greater part, mentioned in the following pages, are therefore familiar to me from personal recollection; and, from this fact, the narrative may embrace many things of more interest to me than they can be to the general reader.

These historical sketches of Woodstock were prepared and written at intervals while I was greatly engrossed in other occupations. They are a compilation rather than a history. As fast as the copy was printed and the proofs were corrected, the pages were electrotyped. For this reason, the chance of condensing and otherwise improving the work in a revision of the whole was lost, and the book has consequently swelled out of all proportion to the importance of the subject. Towards deficiencies and faults of such nature, and towards any others that may appear in the work, the public will exercise a kind forbearance. For the concluding chapter I am indebted to my esteemed friend Oliver P.

Chandler, Esq., who in other ways has assisted and encouraged me greatly in the prosecution of this work.

Several illustrations have been inserted in the book, chiefly of buildings which in the lapse of time have passed away, and of localities which have undergone great changes. These illustrations add materially to the value and interest of this history. At the close of the Appendix may be found a few genealogies, added as an after-thought, for the preparation of which the material was ready at hand. Had there been room for the admission of others, and time at command to get them ready, more might have been inserted, but under the circumstances this was found wholly out of the question.

HENRY SWAN DANA.

WOODSTOCK, *November 1, 1888.*

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HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK.

CHAPTER I.

CHARTER HISTORY OF THE TOWN.

DURING the last French and Indian war, virtually closed for the northern colonies by the conquest of Canada in 1760, the continual passing of troops through the territory that now goes by the name of Vermont caused the value of the lands in that territory to be known for the first time. When at length tranquillity was restored throughout the colonies, speculators and adventurers of all sorts began eagerly to seek after these lands. Benning Wentworth, then Governor of New Hampshire, improved the opportunity, and ordered a survey of the Connecticut River for sixty miles along the borders of his own province. He then laid out three lines of townships on the west side of the river, each township embracing about six miles square. During the year 1761 not less than sixty townships were granted within the limits of the present State of Vermont.¹ Among this number was the township of Woodstock, granted to David Page and others on the 10th of July in that year. For several years very little was done towards settling many of the towns thus granted, because of the dispute that arose about this time between the Governors of New Hampshire and New York as to the right of jurisdiction over the lands west of Connecticut River, which Governor Wentworth had so freely conveyed.

On the 20th of July, 1764, an order was made by the king in council declaring the western bank of the Connecticut River the boundary line between the provinces of New Hampshire and New York. The order was so worded that those who had received grants in the disputed territory under the seal of New Hampshire deemed their titles still good; other parties, who were wishing the way open to themselves for a share in the new territory, reck-

¹ Belknap's *Hist. New Hamp.*, vol. ii., p. 241.

oned that the king's order made these titles worthless, and all the land they covered vacant and unappropriated. This latter notion the Governor of New York very naturally favored, as it enlarged by so much the prospect of a rich harvest of fees for himself and associates, to be gathered from the issue of new grants under his own seal. A dispute therefore took place for the possession of the township of Woodstock, between the grantees under Wentworth and certain persons who at this time beset with their suits the office of the Governor of New York. Among others, the Rt. Hon. Lord Viscount Townshend was willing to take a grant of said township "by the name of Raynham Hall and to improve and cultivate the same," and a memorial in his behalf was presented to Governor Moore by William Kelly, on the 22d of December, 1766. This memorial seems to have been dismissed without any notice.

On the 8th of April, 1766, Levi Willard and his associates presented a petition to Sir Henry Moore, Governor of the Province of New York, setting forth that they were owners and proprietors of the township of Woodstock, and held the premises under the Great Seal of New Hampshire; that they had been at great expense in surveying and improving these lands, and were willing to secure their title to the same by taking out a new grant under the seal of New York. This petition rested for some time without any answer. In the mean while another petition was presented to the Governor on the 5th of September, 1766, by David Page and Jonathan Grout, both of Petersham, Mass. Immediately after the grant of the township of Woodstock, in 1761, Page, himself an original grantee, began to buy up the rights of others of the grantees, many of whom were ready to sell their rights for a mere trifle.¹ Jonathan Grout, a liberal speculator in land, did the same. These men averred in their petition that they had been at the whole expense of laying out and dividing the said township into lots in order for the settlement thereof. After all this expense and labor they wished to secure their interest in the township by his majesty's letters-patent under the Great Seal of New York, as their possessions in Woodstock amounted to nearly ten thousand acres.²

¹ *Land Records of Woodstock*, vol. ii., p. 218.

² *Land Papers in the Office of Sec. State of New York*, vol. xxi., p. 139.

Of any action on this petition no record has been discovered; but the petition of Levi Willard and his associates, presented, as above mentioned, the 8th of April in the same year, was read in council on the 28th of January, 1767, and granted, reserving the public shares and excepting the shares of five persons, to be vested in the crown. No grant, however, was actually issued to Levi Willard, but at this point we begin to meet with the name of Oliver Willard, who henceforth figures most prominently in the charter history of this town. His name does not appear, indeed, among the list of grantees under New Hampshire, but that he was active in securing the original grant cannot be doubted. He is the person appointed in Wentworth's charter to call the first meeting of the town for the choice of town officers, and to act as moderator of the same. Also for many years we find him speculating largely in the lands covered by the New Hampshire grants. He himself affirms that he was concerned in suing out five patents under the Great Seal of New Hampshire, and that he got two of his grants from Governor Wentworth without any survey except of Connecticut River. Nothing certain is known of Willard's early history. His family seems to have lived in Ashburnham, Mass., but he must have become acquainted in person with the upper valley of the Connecticut River in the first stages of the French and Indian War, for in 1756 he was stationed at Fort Dummer, then under command of Captain Nathan Willard. It is possible that he settled in Westminster for a while, as his name is found among the list of proprietors of that town warned to attend a proprietors' meeting in February, 1761.¹ We further find him, this same year, hiring Andrew Powers to go a "Voyage to Coos to Cut hay;" though where the hay was to be landed, after being cut and made, no information is given. However, by his own statement,² he settled in Hartland as early as 1763, and there he continued to reside for the rest of his life. In all the country eastward of the Green Mountains and reaching to the Connecticut there were then about one hundred families, and these were principally confined to some twenty townships along the banks of the river. Conforming to the royal order of the 20th of July, 1764, Willard from that time was a zealous partisan of

¹ *Hall's Eastern Vermont*, p. 742.

² *Doc. Hist. New York*, vol. iv., p. 701.

New York, filling many offices in Cumberland County, and faithfully upholding the authority of the New York government against all opposers. He was a lawyer by profession, and must have possessed considerable influence with the authorities, by means of which he was enabled to carry out his schemes for securing lands to himself and friends in the so-called New Hampshire grants. By the year 1768 he had become the owner of extensive tracts of land in the township of Woodstock, by virtue of his "Purchase of the Grantees of said Land."¹ As yet, however, no patent had issued under the seal of New York for the benefit of the owners and proprietors of Woodstock under the grant of New Hampshire. Until this was done, disputes about titles to lands within the township must continue. This condition of things lasted for even four years after the first settlements were made in the town, when, at length, Willard presented a petition to Governor Tryon, in behalf of himself and the other owners and proprietors of Woodstock, praying for a grant of the same under the seal of New York. The new grant was to cover all the land in the township, except the public rights and the governor's lot, so called, which lot, in 1765, had been granted to Lieutenant William Leslie, a reduced officer of the regular army. The letters-patent were to issue in the name of Oliver Willard and twenty-three associates. This petition was received, read in council, and granted on the 5th of February, 1772. A new survey of the town was made, or pretended to be made, under orders of the surveyor-general, Alexander Colden, and a certificate of the land commissioners was issued to the proper authorities on the 18th of May following.² On the 21st of the same month, by order of the commissioners acting in obedience to his majesty's instructions, viz., William Tryon, Governor-General, Andrew Elliott, Receiver-General, and Alexander Colden, Surveyor-General, the parcel of land known by the name of Woodstock, in the county of Cumberland and province of New York, was set out to Oliver Willard and his associates. On the 1st of June the draft of a patent was prepared by Attorney-General Kempe, in obedience to a warrant of Governor Tryon, and then, on the 3d, the patent was finally issued under the Great Seal of New York. In the patent the king orders that

¹ *Land Rec. of Woodstock*, vol. i., p. 224.

² *Land Papers*, Albany, vol. xxxi., p. 132.

henceforth there shall be two Assessors, one Treasurer, two Overseers of Highways, two Overseers of the Poor, one Collector, and four Constables elected annually as officers of the town; where-soever the first election shall be held, all future elections shall be held in the same place, or as near as may be possible; the grantees must see to it that there be one family to every one thousand acres in the township in the course of three years, and that there be cultivated three acres out of every fifty acres of granted land fit for cultivation; and they must be careful not to fell any pine-trees reserved for the King's use.¹

The charter being thus confirmed and established, it only remained for Willard to be discharged of his associates, twenty-three in number. This was accomplished by a deed of lease and release on the part of the twenty-three to Oliver Willard, dated respectively the 4th and the 5th day of June, 1772, in accordance with which they made over to the said Willard all their right, title, interest, etc., in and to the lands in the township of Woodstock. And so Oliver Willard became seized in fee of this entire township, and every acre of land in the town, excepting five hundred acres, known in old times as "the Governor's lot," may be regarded as held by deed from him as owner or trustee of the same.²

¹ *Land Patents, Original Drafts*, vol. iv., in State Library, New York.

Hampshire Charter, and Appendix II. for copy of New York Charter.

² See Appendix I. for copy of New

CHAPTER II.

GENERAL SUBDIVISION OF THE TOWNSHIP.

THE lands in Woodstock were laid out, to begin with, in several large tracts owned by different persons. In the northwest corner of the town lay the Spencer tract, so called, owned by Elihu Spencer of Trenton, N. J., "Clerk." This tract extended one hundred and one chains on the north by one hundred and four chains on the east, and contained ten hundred and fifty acres. A part of this tract is now within the limits of Pomfret. To the east, and adjoining this tract, lay the Rogers tract, owned by John Rogers, of the city of New York, Doctor in Divinity, equal in extent and proportions to the Spencer tract. In the southwest corner of the town lay the "public rights," so called, embracing four lots and numbered respectively in the charter the first, second, third, and fourth lot. The "first lot" contained three hundred acres, and was designed for the use of the incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The "second lot," laid out on the north of the first, embraced the same number of acres, and was designed "for a Glebe for the use of the minister of the Gospel in communion of the Church of England as by law established." The "third lot," containing three hundred acres likewise, was designed "for the first Settled minister of the Gospel" in the township, and the "fourth lot," embracing one hundred acres, was to be for the use of a schoolmaster. North of the school lot and lying on the west line of the town came a tract of one thousand acres, laid out for Elias Boudinot, LL. D., of Elizabethtown, N. J., as surveyed by Oliver Williams and Phineas Williams, Jr.¹ Next came "Apthorp's west Tract in Woodstock," so called, extending from Boudinot's land along the west line of the town, two hundred eighty-five chains by one hundred chains, and containing nearly three thousand acres. It was laid out in three ranges of hundred-acre lots. In the south part of the town lay the "Apthorp South Tract in Woodstock," beginning at the south-

¹ *Land Records of Woodstock*, vol. iii., p. 147.

west corner of Hartland, and extending on the south line of the town three hundred and forty chains by one hundred and twenty-four. It contained four thousand acres, and was divided into four ranges or tiers of hundred-acre lots. Apthorp's original purchase was made of David Page in 1766, and was secured to him by deed of release from Oliver Willard, after Willard became grantee of the town. He lived in New York city, was an influential member of the Council for the province of New York, and when the Revolutionary War broke out he took sides with the king. For this reason his lands in Woodstock were sequestered by the Court of Confiscation, and sold for the benefit of the State. After the war was over Apthorp made efforts to recover his lost lands. A suit was brought before the Court of Windsor County against the holders of the lands, in a plea of trespass and ejectment, which was tried for the last time before the Supreme Court, February Term, 1794. The jury found the defendants not guilty. Mr. Marsh, counsel for the plaintiff, moved that a new trial be granted for the following among other reasons: That the verdict was against law, in that the defendants did not show any law constituting the Court of Confiscation; that the plaintiff was taken by surprise, in that this trial was the first ever had on the merits of the cause, and in that the Court refused to admit his evidence of an acquittal from imputation of being an enemy to his country. Last of all, the verdict was brought into Court unsealed and open, contrary to law, when the jury had separated after finding the verdict. These reasons the Court overruled, and refused to grant a new trial.¹

Next to Apthorp's south tract, and reaching from the east line of the town to Boudinot's land, came a tract of about three thousand acres belonging to Colonel Jonathan Grout, of Petersham, Mass. Grout was one of the grantees under New Hampshire, but by purchase he added largely to his original rights here, and was among the most active of the proprietors in making improvements and securing settlers for the town. Through many years

¹ *Records of Supreme Court for Windsor County.* After the death of Apthorp, his heirs appointed Asa Porter, of Haverhill, N. H., their attorney, to look after such rights and interests as they might still retain in these lands. It is not known that any one of the many purchasers in the Apthorp tracts, excepting

Abraham Kendall, paid any attention to the claims of the heirs. He took a quitclaim deed from Porter for "lot No. 2 in the third range of the South tract," the 8th day of August, 1808, about twenty-nine years after his first purchase of the same from the State of Vermont.

he was in the habit of visiting Woodstock yearly, to look after his rents and his possessions in general.

Adjoining Grout's land was a tract of some twelve hundred acres, commonly called the Church tract. This belonged to John Church, an original grantee. Church appears to have lived in Charlestown, N. H., but about 1772 he moved to the city of New York, and must have died before the close of the Revolutionary War. The rest of the land in the township, about ten thousand acres in all, was held by Oliver Willard, and was deeded by him, from time to time, the most of it, to persons who settled in the town. There should be excepted, however, one lot of five hundred acres, situated in the northeast corner of the town. This lot went by the title of "the Governor's farm," it being the lot Governor Wentworth reserved for himself in the original patent.¹ After the decision of the king and his council, fixing the west bank of the Connecticut as the boundary line between New Hampshire and New York, Lieutenant-Governor Colden issued a patent of the governor's farm to William Leslie, of the regular army, the grant bearing date October 29, 1765.² However, the grant was never of any benefit to Lieutenant Leslie, formerly of His Majesty's Sixtieth Regiment of Foot, nor is it to be supposed he ever visited his lands and possessions in this valley. The tract remained unoccupied, or at least without any recognized owner, till the year 1790, when it was sold in part to Solomon Emmons for the taxes.

¹ These lots reserved, in the grant of a township, to the Governor and to members of the Council, came to be regarded with great aversion by the inhabitants of a town, and passed by the nickname of "Reders" among the settlers on the grants, who complained of them "as

Grievances because the owners of them would not contribute to any public work which was carrying on." See Governor Moore's *Letters to Lord Shelburne*, June 9, 1767; *Doc. Hist. New York*, vol. iv., p. 590.

² See Hiland Hall's *Vermont*, pp. 82, 83.

CHAPTER III.

FIRST SETTLEMENT IN THE TOWNSHIP.

IN the month of May, 1748, a scouting party of eighty men, under charge of Captains Melville and Stevens, started from Forts Dummer and No. 4 for Crown Point, to search the country for signs of Indians. After passing up Black River and reaching the main branch of Otter Creek, the party separated, Captain Melville and his soldiers directing their course for Crown Point, while Captain Stevens and his company held their way along the east bank of the river. After passing down the river a short distance, the Captain and his men turned eastward in hope of striking the valley of White River. Having traveled down the banks of a certain stream, which they crossed in one day thirty-five times, they reached its mouth, and found it to be "the Quarterqueeche."¹ Such was nearly if not quite the first time this part of Quechee Valley was ever trodden by the foot of a white man. After the charter of Woodstock was issued in 1761, surveying parties must have passed over the ground some time, but all records of their surveys and their doings in this town, if any were made, have perished. There is a tradition that a man named Ensign Richardson, wishing to remove from the low country into the wilderness, made his way up this valley and looked over the lands in Woodstock before a blow had been struck here for civilized life. The part of the town where the Green now is, he described as a savage-looking spot, being what they called a "spruce hurricane." After taking the bearings of the country very carefully, he concluded Woodstock was no place for him, as it was so far from any road and so much out of the world that no human being, except possibly an Indian, would ever live here.

However, Ensign Richardson's calculations were premature. About the time Elbridge Gerry, Timothy Pickering and Caleb

¹ See *N. Hamp. Hist. Soc. Col.*, vol. v.; Hall, *East. Vt.*, p. 43. Captain Rogers, who commanded the expedition against the St. Francis Indians in 1759, in his narrative calls Quechee Falls "Wattock Quitchey Falls." Grahame, in his *Sketch of Vermont*, calls the river, "Wasserqueeche." In the Land Records of Woodstock it is commonly called "Waterqueeche."

Strong were members of Harvard College, another student was there, not destined to act so high a part in the nation as they acted. His name was Timothy Knox. As the story runs, some disappointment came over him, growing out of a love-affair, in consequence of which he forsook the college and put himself in exile. Pushing for the wilderness of the northwest, he struck Connecticut River, and, following up the stream, made his way finally to this point of Quechee Valley, and being satisfied with the looks of the country, concluded to stop here. According to his own statements this was in the year 1765. The nearest settlements at the time were in Hartland and Hartford, whence he could obtain any needed supplies; but his own neighborhood he had wholly to himself. Near a spot on South Branch, formerly called Beaver Meadow, he built a hut, to serve as a place where he could stow his furs and traps and find lodgment for the night. This hut stood at a point about five rods from the dwelling-house on the road leading to South Woodstock, recently occupied by Horace F. Dunham. Here he kept his lodge in the vast wilderness, spending his time in hunting, fishing and trapping, and for a period of three years was the sole inhabitant of the township.¹

But the time had come when this wilderness was to be left no longer to the sole occupancy of Timothy Knox. In the summer of 1768, steps were taken at length for a permanent settlement in the town. On the 28th of June, "in the eighth year of his Majesties Reign," Oliver Willard deeded to Andrew Powers four hundred acres of land in Woodstock. This land is described in the deed as embracing "lots No. 95, 96, 97 and 187, Joyning the Governors farm and the North Line of the Said Township," a description given in accordance with "a map formerly made of the subdivisions of the township." It is much to be regretted that this map, and in fact all the early maps of Woodstock, have been lost.

People are still living who very well recollect Andrew Powers.

¹ C. Richardson, *Vt. Standard*, Oct. 18, 1861. Knox once told Benjamin Sanderson that all the good a college course ever did him was to save him, once upon a time, from being impressed in the British navy. While he was in college, a press-gang made an inroad upon Cambridge and carried off several young men, himself among the number. He was released,

however, as soon as it was known that he belonged to the college. Knox was married in time and had a large family. He died a town pauper. John Hurlburt furnished the shroud, Nathaniel Smith made the coffin, and John Sanderson dug the grave; and such was the end of the first resident of Woodstock.

He came originally from some part of Massachusetts, and lived in Hartland some years previous to his settlement in this town. While living there he must have been largely in the employment of Oliver Willard, and in truth the above-named four hundred acres of land he took from Willard in payment of a long-standing account against him. Soon after the purchase, Powers proceeded to make settlement on his new land, and sold portions of it, besides, to five active young men, who began forthwith to take up and improve their farms. Who these five young men were can be only surmised; but three of the number, beyond much doubt, were William and James Powers, sons of Andrew, and James Sanderson. Nor is it at all improbable that the movement itself was organized and pushed forward by Oliver Willard, as a help towards securing a patent of the town. By general consent, the first one in this colony to stick his stake and take possession was James Sanderson, of whom it will be proper to give a few particulars.

James Sanderson was the son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Sanderson, and was born in Leicester, Mass., in 1746.¹ He married Sally Powers, probably the daughter of Andrew Powers, and lived for a while in Hartland. In the fall of 1768, he built him a brush cabin on Blake's Hill, near the spot where Richardson's red tavern afterwards stood. Into this cabin he moved with his family, consisting of wife and one child six weeks old,² on the first day of December, the same year, drawing all his worldly effects on a hand-sled. To the modern mind, the prospect before him must have been a dreary one; but this man's family wants were few, his frame also was hardy, and doubtless the labors of the summer had secured a supply of provisions sufficient to last till spring. Then he was a great reader, and it is not impossible that in some measure he availed himself of this resource against the intense loneliness of his first winter in Woodstock.

In the spring another family moved into the town; but what family this was, no one has related. Then came James Herwood or Harwood from Hartland, and took up the farm near George Brewster's place, and his was the third family that settled in the town. During the year 1769, other settlers were added to these, including chiefly Andrew Powers and his colony of five "helthy

¹ Washburn's *Hist. of Leicester*, p. 400.

² Benjamin, born on the Simeon Willard farm, in Hartland.

well young men with their families," as he describes them in a letter addressed to the proprietors of Pomfret. In the fall of 1769, James Sanderson left his bush shanty on the hill and built a log house in the bank on the border of Blake's meadow, facing a little northwest.¹ This house stood on the line of the railroad, as now graded, half-way between Blake's barn and the north line of the Blake farm. Its exact site is marked, or was recently, by a clump of bushes some four rods below a large elm-tree standing on the bank.

William Powers, son of Andrew, was a large landholder in Woodstock. His own home farm, which he occupied for some ten years, embraced the meadow lands on the farm now owned by Benjamin S. Dana, and the farm below that, together with the northerly slope of Blake's Hill. His house, a log hut, stood on the hillock on the east side of the road, fronting the old barns below Mr. Merrill's new house. He came to be regarded as something of a prosperous man in the town. Below him, about a mile, his brother James cultivated, and probably occupied, land in the vicinity of the old Gallup farm. Lying on Quechee River, and just above Nathan Cushing's place, was a farm occupied and worked by Joseph Call, probably the farm afterwards owned by Joseph Darling. He married Mary, the sister of James Sanderson, and lived in Hartland previous to settling in Woodstock. Andrew Powers lived, it is supposed, somewhere on the site of Nathan Cushing's farm,² but nothing can be said with certainty on this point. He was a very lazy man, like his cousin Abraham, and a superficial manager. All the land he bought of Oliver Willard in 1768 passed, five years later, into the hands of Benjamin Emmons, who received from Willard a deed of it, as vacant land, under the patent of 1772. In March, 1770, John Sanderson came from Leicester, Mass., and settled on Sunnyside, taking up and improving the farm now in possession of Charles G. Fitch. The northeast corner of his land touched the southwest corner of Joseph Call's land, which is nearly all we know of the position of Call's farm, as no deed of it has been discovered on record. Sanderson's first house, built of logs, stood beside the road on the line of the hedge that now incloses Mr. Fitch's house. A well was in front of it, still in existence, and said to be the first well dug in the town. John Sanderson was a patient, laborious man;

¹ C. Richardson.

² Robert A. Perkins.

rather slow, but faithful, and a useful citizen. He served for many years as the general sexton of this community, and died in 1819.

West of John Sanderson's farm, and adjoining it, came the farm of Ebenezer Call, who married Elizabeth, sister of John and James Sanderson. This farm bordered on Quechee River, and on a "larg Broock Commonly Called and known by the name of Pomfret Broock." Not much of anything is known about this first settler, beyond the fact of his owning and cultivating for a while the piece of land above described, and then taking up more permanent quarters in the southeast part of the town. He had a large family, took very little part in civil affairs, and seems to have lived and died like other men.

Abraham Powers, brother to Dr. Stephen Powers, first settled on a tract of land embracing a portion of Beaver Meadow, the spot known in these latter days as the residence of Deacon Boyden. But he owned other lands in Woodstock, and was the first to clear and cultivate a little patch of ground on the farm afterwards the home place of Phinehas and Jesse Williams. Here, among other freaks of a lazy man, he planted a hill of corn on a decayed stump of a tree, and then, during a visit soon after to his old place in Massachusetts, he could boast to his neighbors that he had corn in Vermont growing ten feet high. In fact, Abraham Powers had the name of being the laziest man in Woodstock, and in consequence, scandalous stories were told about him, to the effect that to keep peace in the household he would water his own sap, by this innocent cheat saving himself the labor of gathering more sap at the trees. In his latter years he moved up to Bridgewater, on North Branch, and died there in 1806. A little removed from this group of settlers lived Ebenezer Dike, whose farm lay towards the southeast part of the town. Dike was rather advanced in point of education over his neighbors, and enjoys the distinction of having been called upon under the New York government to take the first census of Woodstock, in 1771.

These ten men thus named and described were the first to invade this wilderness, and plant and establish homes for themselves and their descendants. The aspect of the country at the time must have been singularly wild, yet remarkably attractive. Wherever the eye turned to survey the prospect, there appeared

an unbroken forest, stretching far and wide till it was lost in the distance. Every valley was filled, and every hill and mountain covered to the top with a dense growth of trees, made up chiefly of maple and beech, sprinkled with evergreen and a few oaks. The meadow land on South Branch, up to about where Timothy Knox built his shanty, was little better than a rough spruce swamp, where the gloom and darkness were so deep that noonday there seemed like night.¹ Through this swamp the brook found its way to the river by a very winding channel, which, in times of flood, spilled the surplus waters in various directions to find the lower level of the main stream.²

At the foot of Mount Tom³ was a swamp grown up chiefly with evergreen, but the white pine, a comparatively scarce tree in this part of the valley, grew with remarkable luxuriance on the lowlands at the confluence of North Branch and Quechee River.⁴ On these same lowlands was a cleared space, occupied some time in the history of this valley as an Indian camping ground. This cleared space was a short distance below Mr. Billings's present farm-house.

Along with the dense forest that spread thus luxuriantly over every portion of the valley of the Quechee, there went also an abundant supply of water. Every hillside was laced with rivulets, and every meadow refreshed with copious streams, while the traveler never toiled far to find a perennial spring. The sight of these full streams and rivulets, enlivened as they were by an abundance of mountain trout, made the hearts of the early settlers glad, but now dry and stony beds mark for the most part the courses of even the larger ones, which, before the forests were so wasted, furnished an ample supply of water-power for grist-mills, saw-mills and tanneries.⁵

¹ Betsey Herwood.

² The present direct course of the brook through "Hutchinson's meadow" is due in part to Job Lyman, who had the channel straightened in 1818.

³ Mount Tom, so called in deeds drawn as early as 1772.

⁴ Nathan Howland, who, with the help of Major Hoisington, cleared this part of the flat about 1776, used to speak in strong terms of the tall and splendid pines he found here, especially of one which measured at the butt four feet through.

⁵ A notable example is found in the brook which crosses the road to Bridgewater about three miles above the village, and near C. F. Lincoln's. One of the first saw-mills in town was erected on this brook by Phinehas Williams and Jabez Bennett, and was in successful operation for years. Here also Elisha Royce carried on, for a still longer period, large and flourishing tannery works. The brook is now nearly dried up. (See page 44.)

In the midst of scenes like these the infant colony started during the years 1769 and 1770. It was a little abreast of the wave of civilized life, but that wave was pressing on fast from behind and soon swept by, on its way west and north. The colony suffered most annoyance and mischief from the attacks of wild beasts of various kinds, which swarmed in the woods; but the great terror of the forest was the red man. For though he was never known to invade this valley after it was settled, yet the inhabitants were always on the lookout for him, as he might be upon them at any moment. Indeed, for several years the few settlers of the neighborhood were accustomed to withdraw at nightfall to "a great island," formed by the arms of the Quechee, and situated in the lowland a little above Mr. Cushing's house. In this way they reckoned themselves less exposed to surprises, and better able to defend themselves, if attacked unawares at any time.¹ But they were never disturbed in their retreat, and the valley continued free at all times from the inroads of the savages. In fact, it probably never was much of a thoroughfare for the Indians at any time. In passing through this section of the wilderness from the westward, after going up the valley of the Otter Creek, they crossed the mountain at the headwaters of either White River or Black River, and then followed down the beds of these streams to the Connecticut. Possibly one reason why they neglected this valley was that the river furnished no supplies of salmon or shad. It may be mentioned, by the way, that in historic times one native Indian has lived and died on the banks of the Quechee. This was Captain John Vincent, who had his hut in Sherburne, near Josiah Wood's tavern. In Revolutionary times he took sides with the settlers, and for services then rendered was pensioned in his old age by the State.

In the fall of 1770 occurred an event in connection with the survey of Pomfret which greatly disturbed the little colony of settlers in this town. Already, in 1761, Pomfret had been surveyed by Theophilus Chandler, but in 1770 a new survey of the township was made by Samuel Payn. In making this survey Payn passed below the present south line of Pomfret about one

¹ There is an accurate description of what seems to be the very island here spoken of contained in a deed of the same from William Powers to Joseph Barrett. *Land Records*, vol. ii., p. 258.

hundred and fifty rods, until he came to apparently the south line of the first tier of hundred-acre lots in Woodstock. Along this line he ran the true south line of Pomfret, as he supposed, and within the space thus taken off from the north part of this town he laid out two lots to Robinson and Waldo, numbered 62 and 63 on his map. The dividing line for these two lots passed between the houses of Seavy and Sherwin, in old times John Fletcher and Nathan Fletcher. At first, this proceeding caused a great deal of confusion and alarm with Andrew Powers and his companions. For Payn had thus taken into the limits of Pomfret nearly the whole of Powers's purchase from Willard, and consequently the settlers in Woodstock under that purchase seemed on the point of losing their lands, with all the improvements resulting from the labor of three summers. Powers, therefore, at once petitioned the proprietors of Pomfret that he and the other settlers to whom he had sold might retain their lands upon condition of acknowledging themselves citizens of that town. This petition was granted by the proprietors at a meeting held in Pomfret, Conn., December 25, 1770, but a re-survey of Woodstock, which must have been held about this time, pushed Payn's new south line back to the old point, and restored matters to the order in which they stood before this survey was made.¹

Another event of interest that occurred about these days was the taking of the first census of the town. This was done in accordance with orders from Governor Dunmore, of New York, issued the 16th of January, 1771, directing the sheriffs of Cumberland and Gloucester counties to take an enumeration of the inhabitants in their respective bailiwicks.² The person appointed to furnish the census of Woodstock was Ebenezer Dike, and, according to the returns he made, there were found to be ten heads of families in the town; namely, Andrew Powers, Abraham Powers, William Powers, James Herwood, James Sanderson, Joseph Call, John Sanderson, Ebenezer Call, James Powers, Ebenezer Dike; and the total number of inhabitants was forty-two. Nineteen out of this number were still under the age of sixteen.

¹ See Appendix III. for Powers's letter. Also, for a full discussion of the disputes that arose between Pomfret and Woodstock about the true dividing line

between the two towns, see *History of Pomfret*, by Hosea Doton.

² Hall's *Eastern Vermont*, p. 187.

Ten years had now passed away since Governor Wentworth issued the charter of Woodstock, and still the township remained little better than an untried wilderness, occupied by a few squatters. It has not been ascertained that any additions were made to the settlers during the year 1771, neither were the prospects of the settlement at all encouraging at this time, but during the next year great and important changes took place, which put a new face upon matters, and established the social and civil interests of the township on a permanent foundation. Several settlers came in that year, prominent among whom was Joab Hoisington, and as Hoisington was a man of considerable note in his day, a brief sketch of him before he came to Woodstock will not be out of place.

Joab Hoisington was born in Farmington, Conn., September 19, 1736. His father's name was John, and his mother was Sarah Templer, of Wallingford. In 1763, in company with Steel Smith and Benjamin Bishop, both of the same town with himself, he took boat and journeyed up Connecticut River in search of adventure and a new home in the wilderness. The company landed on the meadow north of the present village of Windsor, and Smith, leaping ashore, cut the first tree cut in that township.¹ During the following year Smith, with his wife and four children, made the first permanent settlement in the town, Hoisington and Bishop following not long after him. Hoisington became a large landholder in Windsor, and took an active part in all measures for promoting the interests of the town. His house stood on what was known in early times as "Hoisington Brook," on the spot where the Edward Forbes house now stands. His farm extended south to the Otis house, so called, which is in the centre of the village, next to Mr. Merrifield's store. One sad event connects Joab with the early history of Windsor. He and another citizen by the name of Bartlett went into the swamp, which is watered by Pulk Hole Brook, to hunt deer. Going in different directions, they lost sight of each other, and Hoisington by mistake shot and killed his companion. The event cast great gloom over the new settlement. They had to send to Charlestown, N. H., for a coroner, and after a careful examination Hoisington was acquitted of all blame. One other fact may be mentioned in connection with Joab's life in Windsor.

¹ Rev. E. Hutchinson.

On the 21st of September, 1768, the church of "Cornish and Windsor" was organized, of which Hoisington was one of the founders. At the same time ten citizens of Windsor signed a bond, running for five years, to secure to Mr. Wellman, the pastor, his annual salary. First in the list of signers stands Joab's name.

In 1771 Hoisington began to make arrangements for moving into Woodstock. He bought large tracts of land of Jonathan Grout and Oliver Willard; the tract he bought of Willard embracing a thousand acres, more or less, and covering that part of the town afterwards called "The Green." On this tract he settled with his family in the spring of 1772, setting up his log house exactly on the site of Major Churchill's corner. Out of this log house has grown what there now is of the village of Woodstock. His brother Asahel came from Windsor about the same time, and settled on land he purchased of Joab in the south part of the town.

In company with Joab and Asahel came John Hoisington. He received from Oliver Willard a deed of two "hundred-acre lots," bounding Joab's farm on the north and east. One of these lots embraced the eastern half of Pleasant Street, together with the adjoining slopes; the other took in a part of Marsh's meadow lands, including the Fair Ground and Mr. Marsh's original purchase. For the site of his log cabin John picked a spot on the edge of the plain, "about ten rods up stream of the present Brick Meeting-house."¹ This spot was a good one, as it commanded a fine view of the farm, was in full sight of Joab's cabin, and bordered on the river, where was an excellent fording place, securing him easy access to his meadow lands. In front of his house passed "the old town road." This road led from Hartland, and coming down the hill over the site of the stone house built by Mr. Blake, it then crossed the ravine near Mr. Hewitt's, and followed up the high bank of the river to the old Court-house stand, just above which a ford existed for many years.²

This John Hoisington is supposed to have been Joab's father.

¹ Titus Hutchinson. After Hoisington the house was occupied by Elijah Bailey for a few years. In 1796 it was spoken of in deeds as the "old house," and Mrs.

Hazen recollects playing about the ruins when a child.

² Woodward R. Fitch, *Vermont Standard*, May 6, 1864; *Land Records*, vol. ii., p. 402.

He took no active part apparently in organizing affairs in the town and giving life to the new settlement. That he was poor may be inferred from the fact that at town meeting, 1779, his "Pole" was released from paying the town rates for 1773.¹ In 1781 he disposed of the balance of his farm to Charles Killam, after which we hear no more of him in Woodstock.

The spring of 1772 may be set down as the time when social and civil order were at last established in Woodstock. The town government was not indeed organized till one year later, but all the necessary steps to that end were completed at this time, and all disputes and fears about titles to lands in the township were quieted by the issue of a patent to Oliver Willard under the seal of New York. A few signs of life began to appear among these wilds, and now and then a traveler could be seen passing along the highway, either alone or with wife and family, his worldly substance wrapped in a blanket, seeking a stopping-place for the night. To accommodate such wayfarers, and so furnish entertainment for man and beast according to law, Joab Hoisington took out a license as tavern-keeper in Woodstock, from the Common Pleas Court of Cumberland County, at the June Term, 1772. Joab, therefore, was the first innkeeper, and his house on Major Churchill's corner, the first tavern in the town. It has not been positively ascertained, but it is apprehended that during this spring the people of the township met for the first time to take part in public affairs. On the 24th of March an act had been passed by the Colonial Assembly of New York, for erecting a more convenient court-house and gaol, and for enabling the inhabitants to elect supervisors and other county officers in and for the County of Cumberland. By the provisions of this act the judges and justices of the county were directed to meet at the court-house in Chester, on the first Tuesday of the following May, and form into convenient districts such parts of the county as were not erected into townships. At the meeting thus held eighteen districts were formed, of which "The 3^d District comprehends such parts of Woodstock and Bridgewater as lye in the county and extends west to the County Line." The election of supervisors and other officers was held Tuesday, the 19th of May, according to the warn-

¹ In Town Meeting, April 3, 1779, be released from paying the town Rates, "Voted that John Hoisington's 'Pole' AD. 1773."

ing posted in various parts of the county,¹ and it is altogether likely the "3d District" took part in that election. It was now going on the fifth summer since a beginning had been made in settling the town, and the inhabitants would not willingly forego this first opportunity granted for organizing into at least some show of political life. Moreover, the question of changing the county-seat from Chester to Westminster was under eager discussion at this time, and was causing considerable strife among the people of Cumberland County. And further, the settlement had received into its numbers this spring, in the person of Benjamin Emmons, a man who never let slip an occasion for pushing forward the interests of the town.

Benjamin Emmons was one of eight brothers who settled in Hinsdale and Chesterfield, N. H. These were all healthy, active men, with large and powerful frames, fitted in a high degree to endure and overcome the hardships of border life. Several of the brothers served in the provincial army during the French and Indian war, and it is related how one of them, named Dyer, won a bet made between the colonels of an English and a Colonial regiment as to which could bring forward the man superior to all others in muscular strength. To test the matter Dyer Emmons took a cannon weighing eight hundred pounds, carried it six rods, and threw it over a stone wall. The Englishman pitted against him could not do this, and so lost the wager to his colonel, which was a barrel of rum.² Of these eight brothers three came into Vermont. Solomon pitched his tent in Windsor in 1763, and how he lived and what were his fortunes is related elsewhere. Abel married the sister of Simon Davis, and he and Simon settled in Chesterfield in the spring of 1762. Abel did not come to Woodstock till 1780, but Simon Davis came about the same time with Benjamin Emmons and settled on North Branch, taking up the farm next above Oliver McKenzie's. Benjamin Emmons was married to Elizabeth Smith in Chesterfield, November 18, 1765.³ He moved from Chesterfield to Woodstock in April, 1772, "when his daughter Bethany was three months old," and she was born the 3d of January that year.³

¹ One of the original handbills, with an abstract of the divisions, set up in various parts of the county for the people to read, is now in possession of Hon. Wm. M. Pingrey. [1870.]

² Dr. Lewis Emmons.

³ Town Records of Chesterfield. October 20, 1870.

Benjamin Emmons settled on the farm now owned and occupied by Henry E. Vaughan, where he continued to reside the whole period of his stay in Woodstock, including thirty-five years. His land purchase of Oliver Willard, made at the time of his coming into the town, embraced about seven hundred acres in the immediate vicinity where he settled. This covered all the land deeded by Willard to Powers in 1768, and much more besides, but the title to the part once held by Powers did not need even a quitclaim from him, and he still looked to Willard for that long-standing balance of account.

Also in the spring of 1772, Jonathan Kingsley first came to Woodstock to look up lands. He surveyed and purchased lot No. 1, in the Church tract, so called, lying about two miles southwest of the court-house, and was the first settler in what is now known as School District No. 9. But he did not take possession of his land till the year following his survey and purchase.

About this same period Benjamin and Phinehas Sanderson, following their brothers James and John, moved from Leicester, Mass., to this town. Phinehas took up land in the south part, adjoining the farm now occupied by Chauncey Richardson.¹ Benjamin bought of James Herwood fifty acres lying to the east of Joab Hoisington's farm, it being the spot now occupied by William King. He built the house William still uses, planted an orchard, and lived a very peaceful life. These Sandersons were grandchildren of John Sanderson, housewright, who lived in Wattertown, Mass., many years, and represented that town in the General Court for the years 1711 and 1712. About 1725 he moved to Leicester, was selectman of that town for the years 1732-1740, and died about 1750.² He had a son Benjamin, six of whose children were among the very first settlers of Woodstock. These were the four brothers Benjamin, John, James, and Phinehas, and their two sisters Elizabeth and Mary, married, respectively, to Ebenezer and Joseph Call.

Sylvanus and Joseph Cottle, who led the van of the Cottle family in their advance upon this wilderness, must have explored the town this year and pitched their lands, selecting for a site the

¹ Phinehas sold out afterwards to Deacon Andrew Smith, and moved in time to Bridgewater. Andrew Smith came from Lyme, Conn. He was a wheelwright, and learned his trade of Richard

Ransom, in Lyme. He came to Woodstock and bought a farm just west of where the Lockwoods now live, and then after a while Phinehas Sanderson's place.

² Washburn's *History of Leicester*.

ground now or recently owned by Shubael Fletcher and R. T. Hopkins, in the South Part. The family of the Cottles was a large one, and all its members settled in the same neighborhood, and the family itself exercised great influence through the town for many years. After Joseph and Sylvanus left Martha's Vineyard, where the family were residing at the time, and came to Woodstock, the rest soon followed, including the parents, four sons and one daughter. John took up the farm recently owned by Marshall Worcester, and Edward adjoined him on the north. Jabez and Warren were the first settlers in what is now the South Village, and owned nearly all the land the village covers. Jabez was a Baptist preacher for many years and was highly respected.¹

Some time during the year 1772-73, John Strong and Benjamin Burtch, Jr., moved into the town from Hartford. The two picked for their home the place on North Branch which has since been the residence of the Houghtons, Colonel Dana and Salmon Thompson, and were the first to take up land in that part of the town. They lived in remarkable unanimity all the while they dwelt in Woodstock, occupying the same house most of the time, eating at the same board, and holding all their property in common. Yet Burtch was the one who farmed the revenues of this joint concern, and was the recognized property-holder, as is seen from the fact that in the Grand List for 1787, Strong's name is not found, though he was one of the listers; but Burtch's name is there, and he stands highest on the list of any one in the town.² But on the other hand, in all civil and political matters, and in all movements that aimed to advance the interests of the town, Strong was from the first one of the most influential men in the settlement. He came originally from Lebanon, Conn., and was born in that town the 5th of September, 1723. Nothing is known about his history till 1769, when he moved to Hartford, Vt., where three of his brothers had settled before him. For the period of his stay there he acted as town clerk, and also was inn-keeper for some of the time. This business, indeed, Strong seemed peculiarly fitted for, and from the traditions which have come down, he must have opened a tavern at his dwelling-house on North Branch very soon after coming into Woodstock. He

¹ Chauncey Richardson.

count-book, heads all his charges against

² Another queer piece of evidence is Strong thus: "John Strong, *alias* Benj. Burtch, Dr." this, that Dr. Stephen Powers, in his ac-

proved to be one of the most prominent and useful among all the early settlers of the town, and besides took an active part in many of the scenes that led to the independence of the State and the nation.

It has been mentioned already that Simon Davis moved into the town at some period of the year 1772-73.¹ He settled on Pomfret Brook, just above Oliver McKenzie's house. But in those early days the meadow land in that neighborhood was not reckoned worth much, being swampy and deemed unhealthy; the highlands were preferred for residence and for cultivation. He put up his house on the side of the hill, facing easterly, at the foot of which flows the brook. The old orchard, still left there, shows where the house stood. The road then ran a somewhat different course from what it now does. Passing up Sunnyside by John Sanderson's house, it turned to the right at Charles Killam's place, now Charles H. Blossom's. It then swung over the meadow in a westerly direction, crossing the elevated plateau on which Nathan Howland built his first dwelling-house; and thence descended along a pathway still remaining to show the course it took, and crossed over to Burtch's stand. Passing by this, it ran northerly much as it now does, for some distance, then bending a little to the left it swept over the site of Oliver McKenzie's house, and so crossed the brook and ran along the hillside through the orchard back of George Chedel's now dwelling-house. When the Royalton and Woodstock turnpike was afterwards laid out, the road was straightened and made to take its present track.

Up to the present time, Timothy Knox had continued still hovering on the outskirts of the settlement, evidently with no ardent desire as yet to come down to the trials and confinement of civilized man. But becoming enamored of Miss Abigail Dike, he concluded to leave his wild life, bought a farm of fifty acres on the hill just east of the village, and settled down to poverty and a large family.² On the farm he selected and occupied for many

¹ Simon Davis was a tall, strong-built man, with a gruff voice and with harsh ways; but he was a kind-hearted man for all that. His wife was a sort of doctress, and attended to much of the neighborhood practice for years.

² Knox was the best marksman to be found in these parts. He had a long smooth-bore rifle, the cherished compan-

ion of his many years of wanderings as a hunter. In his old age the people got him to come down to the Green and exhibit his skill in shooting at a mark. The mark was a card of gingerbread set up too far off for any other man to hit. Knox drew on it, and put a ball through the centre.

years is an extensive quarry of granite, still known as "the Knox ledge." Thus something even more durable than a monument of brass seems likely to perpetuate the memory of our first inhabitant.

CHAPTER IV.

TOWN GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED.

THE king's patent for the township of Woodstock was issued under the great seal of New York on the 3d of June, 1772. By the terms of the patent the inhabitants of the township, if sufficiently numerous, were to meet for the choice of town officers on the third Tuesday in May, 1773. A warning to that effect having been duly issued, on the day appointed the people met, what few there were, at the house of Joab Hoisington, inn-keeper, "at one of the clock in the afternoon." As already mentioned, this house stood beside the present common, on the spot familiarly known in later times as Major Churchill's corner. The record of the proceedings of this meeting is as follows : —

"Whereas the day appointed in the Pattent of the Town of Woodstock in the County of Cumberland & Province of New York is the third Tuesday of May Anno Domini, 1773 for their Annual Town meeting for the Purpose of Choosing Town Officers

"Therefore by Virtue of a Warrant set up notafying to the Inhabitants of s^d Town being met on the day aforesaid for the purposes above mentioned Proceeded to businefs as follows (Viz.) —

"1st Voted Lieut John Strong, Moderator.

"2nd Voted Joab Hoisington, Town Clerk.

"3rd Voted Benjamin Emmons, Supervisor.¹

¹ The following memorandum, kindly furnished by Judge Phelps, of West Townshend, will show what were the offices and duties of Supervisors : —

From Van Schaack's *Laws of New York*, pp. 54, 55.

"DUTY OF SUPERVISORS.

"to examine and compute all such publick, necessary contingent charges, as they shall find their respective Counties properly chargeable with, and all such other Sum and Sums of Money as shall

be brought and exhibited to or before them, that have or shall be imposed or laid on the same Counties, by the Laws of the Colony ; which Computation being made and perfected, and the Proportion of each Town, Manor, Liberty, Jurisdiction, and Precinct, within the respective Counties ascertained and appointed ; which the said Supervisors, or the major Part of them, for the several Counties respectively, are hereby impowered and required, to ascertain and appoint ; shall be transmitted, under the Hands and

"4th Voted Joab Hoifington & Benj Emmons, overseers of Poor.

"5th Voted John Strong & Daniel Waldo, Afsefsors.

"6th Voted John Sanderfon & Asahel Hoifington, Collectors.

"7th Voted John Strong Benjamin Emmons, and Joab Hoifington, Commissioners of Highways.

"8th Voted Joseph Call Joab Hoifington and Silvanus Cottle, Surveyors of Highways.

"9th Voted Daniel Waldo Joseph Cottle Ezra Drew and Joseph Call, Constables.

"10th Voted John Hoifington & W^m Powers, Fence viewers.

"JOHN STRONG, *Moderator*.

"JOAB HOISINGTON, *Clerk*."

Such is an exact copy of the proceedings at our first town meeting, so far as they were recorded at the time. As to what was said at this meeting by the various actors in it, or what done more than given above, history is silent. Something has been written already about nearly every one who took a part in the meeting, but it may be stated, furthermore, that Ezra Drew, chosen one of the constables, was brother to Dr. Stephen Powers's wife, and must have preceded Dr. Powers one year in settling in the town. Drew came to own extensive tracts of land in Pomfret, and near the southeast corner of that town, not far from Paul's farm, is a hill called the "Drew Hill" to this day, which was cleared on its southwest slope by this Mr. Drew. The clearing is now grown over with young timber.

Another notable character that figures in this scene was Daniel Waldo. Living originally in Pomfret, Conn., Waldo in 1770 moved to Pomfret in the Grants, and assisted to make the first settlements in that township. Having become the owner of lands in Woodstock, he settled here for a while, and took part in organizing the town government, as the records above given declare. After remaining here for two or three years he went

Seals of the said Supervisors, to the Afsefsors of each respective Town, Manor, Liberty, Jurisdiction, and Precinct, chosen as aforesaid." . . .

Assessors to make a rate for their respective proportions. Collectors to collect the rate aforesaid and pay same to county

treasurer. One supervisor to be yearly chosen in each town. Supervisors to meet at the county town on the 1st Tuesday in October, and at other times if necessary. The board was not required to keep any record of its doings, so far as I know.

to Cornish, N. H., and seems to have staid there some time. Waldo was chiefly a trader and a speculator in lands. He possessed a good education for the times, was a first-rate penman, and had a sufficient knowledge of forms to draw up with his own hand the deed of any land he sold as well as any other professional or business document he had occasion to use. But they relate that he had a bad habit of spending his money too fast, which did him in time much injury. Sometimes, too, his trades took a bad turn for him, perhaps because of his habits. On the 9th of September, 1773, a man from New Rutland, Mass., met Waldo at Cornish, and bargained with him for some land in Woodstock on the following terms. He held two obligations on which there remained, as he averred, eighteen pounds due and yet unpaid. He had, besides, a black mare, then on a journey, warranted to be a fine animal, sound in wind and limb, and nine years old. These he delivered over to Waldo in exchange for a deed of the land. But the obligations turned out to have been fully paid already, and when the black mare came to hand she proved old and worthless, and thirteen years passed before Waldo recovered, by course of law, the pay for his land.¹

A town government being now fairly established, there was nothing to hinder the growth of the town as fast as the circumstances of the times would permit, and valuable additions were fast made to the number of its inhabitants. Of many or most of these some mention will now be made, including when they moved into the town and where they settled, with such further particulars as may seem proper to add.

¹ Waldo lived in his last days on Hartland Hill, not far from the old Doubleday farm. He died on a Saturday night, sadly in debt and miserably poor. Deacon Dutton, one of his neighbors, said he must be buried before Monday morning, to keep his creditors from attaching the

body. That a creditor could and might take such a course as this was the common belief of the times. The deacon, therefore, to avoid such an evil, made a coffin with his own hands, and hurried up the poor man's funeral Sunday night.

CHAPTER V.

THE SETTLERS ON THE ROAD LEADING FROM BRIDGEWATER TO POMFRET, ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE RIVER.¹

THE first farm in Woodstock, south of Bridgewater line, was owned and occupied by Ebenezer Barrows. Other members of the Barrows family were James and Thomas. James made his purchase December 20, 1781, a hundred-acre lot in the west part of the town, being a lot in the tract formerly belonging to Charles Ward Apthorp, "an enemy to the United States." Ebenezer Curtis, of whom the land was bought, acknowledges receipt of the pay in the name and behalf of the Representatives of the Freemen of Vermont. The house on this farm, the first one in Woodstock south of Bridgewater line,² was for some years the residence of Mrs. Betsey Barrows, wife of Thomas Barrows, concerning whom more is written in another place.

The next farm in order was the farm of Joshua Randall. The Randalls, William and Joshua, bought lands of Delano and Samson and Samuel Fuller. William Randall was a cordwainer. The house on this farm was afterwards owned and occupied by a Mr. Mason, and in 1831 by David White, who had a hatter's shop near by.

Next came the farm of George Samson, who made his first purchase of land in this town January 6, 1783. This was a lot in the Apthorp west tract, and was purchased of Bennett Field, a tanner, of Coventry, Conn. But the farm in particular on which

¹ Concerning the first settlers on this road and its westerly branches, from Bridgewater line to Bennett's Mills, my information has been gathered largely from notes of conversations held with Nathan T. Churchill in his lifetime, and from manuscript notes left by Mr. Williams. These latter have been particu-

larly helpful. Other sources of information made use of are too numerous to mention.

² The Barrows house stood on the north side of the road, up a hill, and in view of Bridgewater village, then better known as Southgate's Mills.

Samson lived was first taken up by James Washburn, father of Levi Washburn, who came from Brookfield, Mass., to Woodstock, in 1777, and settled on this farm.¹ He built a log house and lived here till November, 1787, when he sold the farm to George Samson, reserving, however, about a quarter of an acre "in the Northwest corner for a burying-ground," where were buried the remains of his wife, who died a short time before the sale of the farm. For a few years Samson, after the purchase of the farm, occupied the log house, which stood in the field a few rods above the present house. As soon as he was able, he tore this down and put up near it a small frame dwelling, in which he lived for more than twenty years. He then moved this back a little, to form the rear part of a new house. The foundations of this new house he also laid, and put up the frame and did something towards finishing off the inside. At this point he left the house for his son to complete.²

George Samson came from Middleborough, Mass. He was a good man, a deacon of the Baptist Church, and clerk of the church for many years. After the disappearance of that church he became a member of the Christian Church in this village. His son, George W. Samson, succeeded him, and resided on the homestead till his death, August 2, 1870.

Close by Samson's, but a little off the road, were the farms of Caleb Wood, Timothy Winslow, and Eleazer Wood. Eleazer Wood was a blacksmith, a jolly sort of character, full of Revolutionary anecdotes and stories about old Middleborough, herring fisheries, and turpentine manufacture. When Judge Paine built his Williamstown turnpike, he employed Mr. Wood as his blacksmith, who went to live at Williamstown during the building of the road. Ever after Judge Paine was held in high veneration by Mr. Wood, who was always ready to talk about the judge and praise him.³

The more modern building, which stands near the brook, was formerly occupied by Eleazer Wood, Jr., and in later times by Elliot Smith.

¹ A number of pine-trees stood on this land at the time, one of which Mr. Washburn used in making a canoe for crossing the river. Captain Phineas Williams cut a number of these pine-trees and had

them sawn into lumber, which was used in finishing his house.

² See *Vt. Standard*, August 4, 1870.

³ N. Williams.

The next farm below Samson's, on the river road, was occupied by Anthony Besse. Right west of Anthony Besse was the residence of Nehemiah Besse, brother to Anthony.¹ His house is now torn down. Caleb Wood's farm adjoined Nehemiah Besse's on the west. Nehemiah married a sister of William Perry, of Pomfret. The wife of Anthony Besse was named Holmes. Anthony died about 1810, and his house is still standing (or was a short time ago) near a more substantial mansion erected by George G. Raymond, whose farm included the Besse farms. About 1861, Mr. Raymond sold his farm to Levi Minor, and moved farther down the river to the village now called West Woodstock, where he built a very handsome house at the entrance to the village on the north side of the road. The Besse family is now dispersed.

Adjoining the home farm of Anthony Besse came the farm and house of Captain Timothy Cox, who purchased of Abraham Besse. His wife was a sister of Judge William Perry. For many years, while goods were transported by teams from Boston, Captain Cox was a constant teamster, and almost all the time on the road. The house the Captain lived in Mr. Williams describes in the following manner:—

"The house was a common 30 by 40 house, built after the almost universal fashion of farmhouses of one story; a front door, never used; a 'square room' each side of the door, but the entrance was in such cases at one end of the house by a narrow entry leading to the kitchen. There was a short entry at the front door which led butt against the chimney, and doors into the 'square rooms' opened right and left from the front entry; but there was no connection between the front entry and the kitchen except through the front or 'square rooms.' The chamber stairs led out of the kitchen or out of the narrow entry. When they led from the entry the cellar stairs were under the chamber stairs, and were approached from the kitchen by a door standing by the side of the narrow entry door, and so near that strangers frequently mistook one for the other, and not unfrequently, on bowing themselves out of the house, found themselves at the bottom of the cellar."² Captain Cox died February 17, 1828, aged sixty-six, and is buried in the Williams cemetery.

¹ Nehemiah Besse came from Bridgewater, Mass., settled in Apthorp west tract about 1780.

² "On Thursday last a Barn belonging to Captain Timothy Cox of Woodstock was struck by lightning and consumed. Capt.

The farm next below Captain Cox was owned and occupied by William Raymond, who was born in Middleborough, Mass. His father was Barnabas Raymond. He learned the trade of shoemaker in his native town, whence he removed with his family to Woodstock, February, 1780. He was a man of sound moral and religious principle, of strong intellect, and of thrifty and patient industry; well qualified every way for pioneer work in the wilderness. The first office to which he was elected in the town was the appropriate one of leather-sealer, but he was afterwards appointed to other and more important offices in the gift of the town, discharging every duty assigned him with rare fidelity. June 9, 1782, he and his wife Phebe were admitted by letter members of the Congregational church in the North Parish, and they retained through all the changes of time their strong attachment to the institutions of the Pilgrims. The eldest son, George, and the third son, William, were industrious and enterprising young men. About the year 1796 they made some arrangement with their father with reference to a division of the property, by which to secure a little capital for business, and for several years they carried on a successful trade in English and West India goods, setting up a store and ashery near by the home place.¹ One of the leading articles they dealt in was *ginseng*, and they made money out of it; but the people were not free from tricks in those days, any more than they are at the present day, and sometimes the Raymonds had parsnips palmed upon them for the genuine article. About 1807 they transferred their business to the Green, and built a fine brick store on the Common (now Park Cottage), and placed their brother Isaiah in it as clerk. In the midst of all this successful current of business, Colonel George Raymond died, on the 18th day of September, 1811. The firm of G. & W. Raymond, Jr., was thus dissolved,

C. had just got in the last load of hay, of which he had about twenty-four tons, and the men who were pitching it off had scarcely time to get out of the Barn before it was enveloped in flames.

"It is remarkable, that about nine years ago he had a house and its furniture destroyed by fire. We hope therefore his neighbors will reach out the hand of charity to him, for certainly no man by his honesty or industry ever merited relief

more. Loss, about four hundred dollars." — *Vt. Rep.*, August 7, 1809.

¹ The business was carried on at the beginning by the father and the two sons in copartnership, under the firm name of William, George, and William Raymond, Jr. This firm was dissolved by mutual agreement, July 18, 1809, and the business continued under the firm of George and William Raymond, Jr. — *Vermont Rep.* August 7, 1809.

and subsequently the surviving partner transferred his business to Bridgewater. Nor did he survive his brother long, but died the 28th day of November, 1815. The business then passed into the hands of Isaiah Raymond, who continued it for many years, when he was succeeded by his son, Charles S. Raymond. Upon the death of the latter, in 1883, the business was soon wound up.

Below Mr. Raymond's house there used to stand a school house. This has long passed away, and is now almost entirely forgotten.

Next in order came the homestead¹ of Deacon Ichabod Churchill, a prominent member of the Baptist Church that once existed in this neighborhood, and a man of considerable influence in the community. He was born in "Old Plymouth," August 20, 1746, settled in Middleborough, where he lived for many years, and where his three oldest children were born; first came into these parts in 1777, to look the ground over with reference to permanent settlement. Here he fell in with Josiah Dunham, who proposed to sell him his farm of one hundred acres. Churchill inquired the price. "One hundred pounds," was the answer. "How long will you give me the refusal of it?" "Well, a week," said Mr. Dunham. Churchill in the mean time looked the lands over, both in the south part of the town and up Pomfret Brook, as it was called, where Nathan Howland and Benjamin Burtch were settled at this time. Not finding any spot more to his mind than the farm offered him by Josiah Dunham, he closed the trade with him, and paid over the cash in lawful currency. The money was at par when Dunham took it, but unluckily he kept it so long without using it that the currency came to be worthless in his hands.

The next year, 1778, Mr. Churchill moved up from Plymouth, or rather Middleborough, to his new home, bringing his wife and four children with him. He occupied at first a log-house put up on the place by Mr. Dunham, but very soon built and occupied the red house still standing on the original farm. When he first

¹ The farm of Ichabod Churchill was divided in course of time, and the house first reached from Mr. Raymond's place was and is the house formerly owned and occupied by Bartlett Elms, whose first wife was Salome, daughter of Deacon Churchill. Bartlett Elms occupied this house many years. His wife Salome died January 15, 1838, at the age of 49 years. He afterwards married Priscilla, daughter of Timothy Cox, and died December 3, 1861, at the age of 75 years.

occupied this farm there was no neighbor above him and no settler to be met with till reaching the Otter Creek.

Mr. Churchill was not a member of any church when he came into town, but was converted here in the wilderness during the remarkable reformation which followed directly upon the death of Moses Samson, shot by accident at Pogue Hole, June, 1781. He first, with many others, united with Mr. Daman's church, July 21, 1782, at which time his children, Ichabod, Noah, William, Joseph, Eunice, and Sarah, were baptized. But by the middle of September he applied for a dismissal from the church in order to join with the "Anabaptists," which was refused. However, the refusal made no difference with him in the course he had decided to take. Being received into the Baptist Church, he continued a member till the church ceased to exist, when he joined the Christian Church, organized on the wreck of the Baptist, and kept up his connection with it the rest of his life. He died the evening of the 7th of August, 1826, at the age of eighty. He was twice married. His first wife was Sarah, born June 8, 1753, died October 10, 1800, having borne thirteen children to her husband, the youngest of the thirteen being Nathan Tinkham, born May 17, 1795. September 13, 1803, he was married by Elisha Ransom, "minister of the gospel," to Hannah Bennett, of this town, who died May 19, 1825, at the age of sixty-seven. Some of the children went to Stowe, and were thriving men. Only one, Nathan Tinkham, remained in this town.

Going from Deacon Churchill's, the main road formerly passed over the hill and came into the present road about half a mile below. The first house up the hill was that of Captain Joseph Bennett, a carpenter of some note, who, in connection with Nathaniel Smith, assisted in the erection of the best edifices in this vicinity. In later times Captain Bennett moved to Stowe, where he became a man of some property, and his sons took a good stand.¹

¹ "FOR SALE. A Farm three miles from Woodstock Green, on the main road from thence to Rutland and Clarendon, containing forty acres of excellent land, well cultivated and fenced; a well-finished low house, 30 by 40 feet; a new house, 24 by 36, suitable for a store or mechanic's shop; a good barn and out-buildings. Quechee River running on one side and a

never-failing brook through the middle; a good well of water and a thrifty young orchard of 150 trees, now beginning to bear fruit. This delightful and fertile place, lying on a great road, needs only to be seen to be admired by a farmer, a merchant, tavern-keeper, or a mechanic. March 11, 1809. JOSEPH BENNETT." —*Vt. Republican*, March 13, 1809.

Next beyond Captain Bennett's stood, at the fork of the roads, the schoolhouse. The first building put up in this neighborhood for school purposes was built of logs, about the year 1783, and stood a little below the house of Joseph Churchill. It was probably the same building alluded to in the old deeds of that date as "lately sot up for a schoolhouse." This log concern was used six or eight years, and then a frame building was erected further up the river, on the main road, between the houses of William Raymond and Deacon Churchill. Henry Raymond, brother to George G., had the charge of this schoolhouse one season. He built a big fire in the fireplace one morning, and went off and left it, and the building took fire and burnt. This was about the year 1808. The next schoolhouse was erected further down the river, and at the fork of the roads, on the corner of what was later Caleb Mendall's farm. It had two main entrances. A row of desks, set against the walls, extended round the schoolroom on three sides. The master's seat was at the end of the room next the door. This one row of desks with seats embraced all the accommodations afforded the scholars. About the year 1860 the present elegant and commodious schoolhouse in District No. 5 was erected near the residence of Mrs. Lincoln.

At this point a road turned off to the left, and the first house on this road was the residence of Micah Randall. Beyond Randall lived Samuel Raymond, and adjoining Raymond came Eleazer Meacham's farm.¹ Next beyond Meacham was the residence of John Palmer, who was chosen first constable in 1799, and held the office for thirteen successive years. He married Joanna, the only child of Eleazer Meacham, but they did not have any children.² Beyond Palmer lived Aaron Randall, and adjoining his place came the farm of Obed Randall, where the road ended.

¹ Eleazer Meacham bought of Archipus and Seth Fuller, April 24, 1792. His purchase lay in the third range of the Apthorp west tract, and contained sixty-four acres. Eleazer Meacham's farm is now owned by Jesse Leonard.

² Palmer became unfortunate and impoverished by bad habits in the latter part of his life, and went into the State of New York. His farm is now occupied by

the widow of Wales A. Taft. He died in Madison, N. Y., some time about October, 1824, at the age of 61 years. In the *Vt. Republican* for November 25, 1811, Palmer gave general notice that "having made arrangements to leave this part of the country, he hereby calls upon all persons indebted to him either on note, book account, or taxes, to make payment by the 20th of December ensuing."

Next below the schoolhouse, on the main road, came the house of Josiah Dunham, a man of varied information, for many years constable of the town, and in many ways a very useful man. He was born in Coventry, Conn., February 2, 1746, O. S. His parents dying when he was quite young, little is known of them beyond the fact that they left four children, two sons and two daughters. Josiah was the eldest son, and early in life was apprenticed to the blacksmith's trade, carrying on the business for himself when he came of age. On the 22d of November, 1770, he married Experience, eldest child of Phinehas Williams, of Mansfield, Conn. When his father-in-law moved up into this town in the spring of 1774, Dunham decided to come too, and the same season purchased of William Powers a large tract of land west of and adjoining Mr. Williams's farm. He received a deed of this land September 21, 1774, and in the deed he is described as a resident of Woodstock. He cleared a small part of the farm, laid in a stock of provisions, and returned to Connecticut. Late in the following winter he started with his family for the new home in the wilderness, placing his goods and blacksmith's tools in an ox team, which he drove in person. His wife kept him company on horseback, seating her eldest boy, four years of age, on the pillion, and holding in her arms the youngest child, a girl of two years. So they toiled on their way to Woodstock. Reaching the limits of the township at last, they put up for a short time at the house of Dr. Stephen Powers, then a log hut standing on the present common. After resting here a short time, they pushed on up the river, finding no house by the way, till they reached the dwelling of Phinehas Williams, where a hearty welcome and good cheer awaited them.

Mr. Dunham put up a log house and workshop a few rods northeast of the house lately occupied by Charles F. Taft, farmed it, and carried on the blacksmith's trade four years, then sold out to Ichabod Churchill. He then bought another lot of land some distance northeast of the first lot, and on this land built a log house, shop, and frame barn. Soon after locating on his new purchase, he sold that portion of it now the farm of Erastus E. Thomas, to Jacob Bevins, who married Mehetabel, sister to Mr. Dunham.

As the town began to grow and business interests of various kinds increase, Mr. Dunham was called on in various ways for

service in public and private life. He was a man of great industry, understood well the forms of business, and became a sort of self-appointed counselor-at-law in the community. He was a very kind neighbor, too, always ready to minister to the suffering and to help the needy.

In 1797 Mr. Dunham gave his farm to his two oldest sons and purchased another on the river road, previously occupied by Abishai Samson. On this last place he lived for thirty-six years, and died here in 1834, at the age of eighty-eight years, four months. Mrs. Dunham, his wife, survived him till 1854, reaching, with faculties unimpaired, the remarkable age of ninety-five years and five days. She could knit, sew, and read without spectacles till her death.

The next farm on the river was originally taken up and improved by Abraham Powers, who cleared and cultivated but a small portion of it. The 4th day of May, 1774, he deeded this farm to Phinehas Williams, of Mansfield, Conn., who moved up to this town that same year with his family. Passing down the highway from Hartland Hill till he struck the plain below, near the present railroad station, he traveled along the road by the high bank of the river till it ended at the fordway near the spot where the court-house formerly stood. At this place he put his wife and one or two of his children into a cart and drove up the bed of the river three miles to his stopping-place.

"The inhabitants of this new and wild region lived in constant apprehension from the disturbances in the political world, rumors and echoes of which they sometimes heard in the midst of their forest residence, and it may be mentioned here as a wonderful instance of the propagation of sound through the usually still and quiet wilderness, that the firing of the guns at the battle of Bunker Hill was heard on the farm we are now speaking of, and I have conversed with several of the men of those days who distinctly heard the reports of artillery on that day, in the places where they were at work, in Woodstock and Bridgewater, and supposed the firing was at Charleston, N. H., then called No. 4, where there was a fort or military post of some kind. The guns of Bunker Hill were also heard at a like distance in Connecticut. I have heard Judge Strong say that he then lived in Norwich, Conn., and he there heard the cannonade."¹

¹ N. Williams.

Phinehas Williams, having taken possession of his farm, proceeded to reclaim it from the forest. He was a practical, industrious man, and his meadows under his diligent care yielded an abundance of the fruits of the earth. His family grew up around him and branched off in various directions, as accident or choice dictated. As the town increased in population, the public demand for the services of Captain Williams also increased, and he was frequently called on to fill offices of trust in the gift of the people, the duties of which he discharged, so far as he accepted these trusts, with urbanity and uprightness, and to the end he was a useful and popular man. He died December 29, 1820, at the age of eighty-six years.

Captain Williams was married in Mansfield, Conn., the town where he was born, to Mary Fields, the daughter of Bennet Fields (or Field), whose brothers Elijah and Samuel afterwards resided in this town. His children were Experience, Oliver, Jesse, Phinehas, Bennett, Roger, Hezekiah, and Betsey, all of whom lived to have families except Bennett, who died of consumption October 11, 1798, and Hezekiah, who came to his death by accident. On the 5th day of September, 1778, he went out with his brother Roger hunting in the woods. Roger went forward with the gun; Hezekiah was behind. As they descended a hill, Roger fell, and in some way in his fall the gun went off, and Hezekiah was killed by the discharge.

Jesse Williams, the second son of Phinehas Williams, was born in Mansfield, Conn., the 14th day of June, 1761. His early education was indifferent, consisting only of reading, acquired by home tuition, writing, learned by imitation, with considerable bad spelling. The practical rules of arithmetic he also acquired, especially the rule called Practice, which he learned to use with great facility and accuracy. Such was the slender stock of knowledge which he had gained at the schools of the day, when he was placed as an apprentice or clerk in the store of Mr. Brigham, a country merchant in his native town. About the close of the Revolutionary War he came to Vermont, where he was desiring to set up the business to which he was bred. There never had been any store in town, and thus far little or no intercourse with market had existed, and precious little commerce of any kind, nor was money to be had. Captain Williams is reported to have brought some money with him, and to have given most

of it away to poor people. One of the earliest articles of produce or manufacture exported from the wilderness was ashes, — pot-ashes and pearl-ashes. The great thing was to clear the land of its luxuriant growth of timber, and from the log heaps burnt large quantities of ashes could be easily gathered. These were leached, and the lye procured from them boiled down to black salts, and at this point the common domestic process ended. To complete the manufacture of pot or pearl ashes required the establishment of potash works or pearlash works, a building with an arch and kettles, and an oven for scorching the salts and purifying them, and the building used for these purposes was called in common parlance a “pot ash.” Such a building was erected, and such works were fitted up on Captain Williams’s farm, by his son Jesse, who contemplated by this arrangement to raise the means for the purchase of groceries and other articles of foreign produce which the necessities of this country demanded. The work went on, a quantity of salts was collected, ashes were manufactured, and in due time the proprietor went to market (Hartford or Boston) to purchase goods. Such an event had never occurred in the country, and the report that goods were expected went abroad through the settlements on Quechee and White rivers. Meantime the inhabitants waited with impatience to exchange the little money they had, and the salts they were making, for such articles as at the present time are counted necessities of life, but then were ranked among the luxuries. The goods arrived, and with them the eager customers in such numbers that the proprietor had not time for refreshment or sleep, until his little assortment was all sold out and every scrap of it carried away, in exchange for money and salts; nor was the price of any consequence to the purchasers, if they could only have the goods. The young trader then had his salts worked up and his ashes manufactured, and was ready for another turn in his commercial enterprise, which he prosecuted with zeal; but such was the demand for his goods that it was not till after several turns of his deal that he was able to keep any on hand. After reaching this point, he built a small storehouse, which he occupied for that purpose till his removal further down the river.¹

Of the children of Captain Williams, Oliver remained in Woodstock till his death, which occurred June 29, 1823. He

¹ Norman Williams.

was called to fill many town offices, and was town clerk about forty years. Like most people of any means in those days he attained some military distinction, and became a colonel of militia. He married Urana Thomas, January 25, 1784, and his children were Mary, who married Anson Dunham; Abigail, wife of Colonel Joseph Topliff, of Bridgewater, to whom she was married November 27, 1808; Ira, who was bred a country merchant, and was a member of the firm of Allen, Williams & Hall, which, in 1809, succeeded the firm of Allen & Dana at the stand on Elm Street, where is now the Tracy Block. In 1812 he received a commission as Lieutenant of Dragoons in the United States Army, and in 1814 a captain's commission in the 26th United States Infantry, a rifle regiment, and at the close of the war went to the West and resided at Dubuque, Iowa, where he died about the year 1835. Other children were Olive, Otis, Phinehas, and Nathan, who went West and settled there, and very little further is known of them. December 4, 1806, Urana Williams died at the age of forty-nine, and November 24, 1808, Oliver Williams was again married at Barnard, "by Mr. Hosea Ballou," to Mary Richardson, the widow of Jason Richardson. About the year 1818 he removed from his farm in School District No. 3 to the house on the west side of the river which had just then been vacated by Stephen Powers, who had removed West with his family. Mr. Williams continued to reside here till his death.

Phinehas Williams, another son of Captain Williams, settled in Bridgewater, where he lived till about 1819. He then went to Ohio, and died there about 1829. He was a major of militia and a captain in the 11th United States Infantry in the army raised in the War of 1812. He was frequently the representative of Bridgewater in the legislature during his residence in that town. He had several sons and daughters, of whom the oldest son, Phinehas, married a daughter of James Topliff, Esq., of Bridgewater. He went to Ohio some years after his father moved there.

Roger Williams (familiarily called Rod) was born in Mansfield, Conn., the 13th of March, 1767. He came to Woodstock with his father Phinehas Williams, being then seven years old. He was bred to the business of a country merchant, and as early as the year 1788 was engaged in trade, occupying, perhaps, the

stand near his father's farm, vacated about this time by his brother Jesse. As early, however, as the year 1795, he came down to the Green, where he bought of Abraham Hedge the shop the latter had built on the south side of the Common, on the site of the present Court House, and with it about an acre of land of Jason Richardson. Here, in March of the same year, Roger, in company with General Curtis, of Windsor, opened a store of English goods and hardware. The firm did business in this line one year, then dissolved; but Williams went on with the business alone for a year longer, and then sold his shop with the land adjoining to Moses Osgood. In the mean time he appears to have been engaged with Walter Bugbee in erecting, on the west side of the Common, a long one-story building, which in later times was occupied and improved by Judge Walter Palmer. According to a frequent practice of the day it was a store and dwelling-house in one, and was "colored by Joseph Churchill" (Senior) with the durable red for which Churchill was famous.

But though Williams sold his shop to Osgood, he still continued to drive business in some shape. For he was a restless, stirring man, ever on the wing, and though his sphere of locomotion was comparatively limited, within that sphere he realized as nearly the idea of perpetual motion as if the whole boundless continent had been before him for his field of activity. Starting to begin with near the homestead, he next appears to have located in the Myrick house; sold out and built on the opposite side of the Common, but did not stay there; then his family were up at Elisha Taylor's house on the North Branch, where a sad accident happened to his little child; then he pitched his tent, so to speak, in the house on Pleasant Street now occupied by Norman W. French, which he caused to be painted a bright and beautiful red, so that it shone in the morning light and filled with admiration the eyes of the youthful Chauncey Richardson, as he trudged past it on his way to and fro.

About this time Williams fell in with Zac Ellis and David Smith. Ellis had been keeping store in Barnard in company with Benjamin Burk, but the company dissolved in the summer of 1797, and Ellis went on alone for a while, then leaving Barnard came to Woodstock. These three men together bought three fourths of an acre of land of Jason Richardson, embracing

the site of the McLaughlin Block and the Phoenix Block of modern times and the adjoining back buildings to the edge of the pond. This tract was mostly water or bog then, and the dry land contained in the purchase was well spread with willows and poplars. But Williams thought it a good speculation to invest here and set up a store, and though it turned out a poor one for him, yet time has confirmed his judgment as to the advantages of the location for business. On this ground a potash was erected close by the brook, which was used jointly by Ellis and Smith, who kept store in the red tavern on the common, and by Roger Williams, who built his red store building just opposite Taylor's Hotel. This was about the year 1799. This business connection, however, did not continue long. In the year 1800 Roger gave up trade in Woodstock. In 1805 he went to Randolph, where he spent the rest of his life, and died there July 4, 1829.

Betsey, the youngest of Captain Williams's children, was married to Dr. Stephen Drew, of South Woodstock (about 1795), who was an excellent and highly esteemed physician. Her daughter Eliza married Harrison French, of Barnard, November 15, 1820. Susan, another daughter, married Samuel Lovell, and afterwards Richard Hayes, Esq., now deceased.¹ Oliver, a son, was a respectable physician residing in Waterbury, and the other son, Henry C. Drew, owns and occupies the farm which was his father's in South Woodstock.

Taking the road on the south side of the river at Phineas Williams's place, turning to the left, the first house on the old road, as that used to run, was the residence of Timothy Taft, who was born in Mendon, Mass., and was the son of Artemas Taft. He was the father of Charles F. Taft and Wales A. Taft.

He died July 16, 1861, at the age of eighty-three years. His wife, Jerusha McWain, died May 26, 1856, aged sixty-eight, and her headstone bears the motto, —

"Link after link is severed,
And life is fleeting fast,
Deal kindly with the aged,
And love them to the last."

On the top of the hill, after leaving Timothy Taft, lived Benjamin Mack, and next to him Silas Perry. East of Timothy

¹ Richard Hayes died February 21, 1854.

Taft lived Stephen McClay, a Scotchman, the father of Stephen P. McClay of later times. He died on the 13th of September, 1838, at the age of fifty-four years. His wife Margaret survived him several years, and died May 24, 1861, at the age of seventy-three. Going directly south from Taft's, on the old road as it ran, the next house was the residence of Edward Church. Church moved from Hadley, Mass., about the year 1780, and settled on his farm here, which he occupied till 1829. His wife's name was Esther. They had nine children, of whom Pliny, the seventh, was father of Joseph R. Church of the present day, who has recently moved to Springfield, Vt. Immediately south, and still on the old road, came the residence of William McClay, who was one of the first settlers in the town, having lived here at the time of his death "rising of fifty years." He was born in Scotland, in the parish of Kippen and shire of Stirling, and died in Woodstock, September 22, 1829, aged eighty-six years. He was grandfather of Gustavus H. McClay, and his farm is now occupied by Joseph Hatch (1886).

Proceeding down the road from the Williams place, the high house standing on the hillside, which takes the traveler's eye at once, was built by Elisha Royce about the year 1808. Royce was a tanner and currier by trade, to which business he added also the making of boots and shoes. He was a great man of business, attentive to his work early and late, shrewd, and economical. He first established his tanning works here in the latter part of the last century,¹ and for a while did more business in his line than all the other tanners in town put together. Towards the close of his life he became deranged, and this speedily affected his health so much that he sank under it and died the 20th of January, 1815, at the age of fifty-two years. His wife Alice died April 4, 1813, at the age of forty-seven years, and is buried in the cemetery near the West Meeting-House.

Two sons and two daughters survived Mr. Royce. A daughter, Betsey, died July 24, 1795, at the age of five years and six months. The oldest son, John Royce, born the 26th of February, 1793, took up his father's trade, and continued the tanning and currying business at the old stand; and May 10, 1824, took Charles Williams in partnership, and the business was carried on

¹ In 1799 he was in company with Epenetus Allen. This copartnership was dissolved July 5, 1800.

for a while under the name of Royce & Williams. He died September 30, 1848. His wife, Elizabeth, survived him one year. The second son, Phinehas, became a physician, and proved a discreet and worthy man, and was residing a few years ago at Niagara Suspension Bridge. The oldest daughter, Sophronia, married Colonel Hough, of Lebanon, N. H., and the youngest, Clarissa, married James H. Kendrick, cashier of the Bank of Lebanon. The old house on the hill in time passed out of the hands of the family and ceased to be the residence of any of the original occupants. In later years it was occupied by Loudon Smith, a man of careful, methodical ways, slow of speech, who married Mariam (or Miriam), daughter of Josiah Dunham. He died August 14, 1862, in his ninetieth year, and his wife followed him the 10th of April, 1863, a few months after her eighty-fourth birthday.

On the hill about a hundred rods from Royce's place stands the house built by Joseph Churchill, who in his day was the most celebrated house painter in these parts. He came from Plymouth County, Mass., — old Middleborough, — about the year 1777. On the third day of May in that year, he received from Phinehas Powers a deed of lot 154, containing one hundred acres, "as the lot is further described by the plan of the Township of Woodstock." In 1783, he bought about sixteen and a half acres more of William Bennett, Jr., adjoining Phinehas Williams, and this seems to make up the sum of his land purchased in this town. On this farm he settled, cleared and cultivated the land, and in due time built the house that still stands a little off the main road as it now runs, and commands a most agreeable and pleasant outlook of the surrounding country. This house was kept as a tavern for many years, and was one of the most celebrated establishments of the kind anywhere about. It was a sort of centre of business and place of resort for transactions of a public and private character for all the neighborhood, and even the regions beyond.¹

¹ The Churchill tavern is now owned and occupied by Franklin B. Shaw.

The stream or little brook that runs down the hillside between Churchill's house and Royce's stand was more copious in early days than at present. In 1784, Churchill, for love and good will,

leased to Phinehas Williams, George Daman, and Jabez Bennett, for use and improvement, "a certain spot of land whereon the sawmill now stands, it being on a stream that runs through my farm whereon I now dwell," with the necessary privileges (*Land Rec.*, vol. i., page 256).

Joseph Churchill retained the care of the farm and management of the tavern until 1805, when he resigned the principal charge to his eldest son, Levi, but still continued actively employed in house painting and farm labor till about the year 1820, when he moved to Stowe, and died there January 18, 1824. His widow survived him till February, 1856, and died in Stowe at the age of eighty-eight, at the house of Harper Sears, where she was then living.¹

May 5, 1782, Joseph Churchill was admitted into the Congregational Church in the North Parish in Woodstock; at the same time his wife, Sarah, was baptized and received into full communion. Then on the 20th of the next July, Levi, Miriam, Sarah, Lucy, and Joseph, their children, were baptized by the pastor. But as early as 1788, Mr. Churchill and his wife seceded from the Congregational Church and united with the Baptist Church, then under the pastoral care of Elder William Grow. He continued from that period an active member of the Baptist Church till it lost its visibility about 1806.

The children of Joseph Churchill and Sarah Cobb, his wife, were Levi, born April 24, 1772, in Middleborough; Miriam, born August 16, 1774, in Middleborough; Sarah, born April 13, 1777; Lucy, born March 24, 1779; Joseph, born July 7, 1781; Sylvester, born August 2, 1783; Isaac, born February 19, 1788; Susan, born July 17, 1793. Levi, known as Captain Levi Churchill, occupied the home farm and kept the tavern for many years. He married January 10, 1798, for his first wife, Priscilla Simmons, daughter of George Simmons, who died May 23, 1799, at the age of twenty-four. For his second wife he married, January 1, 1805,

"to have and to hold so long as they shall see cause to maintain a sawmill on said spot." The brook here spoken of was called Mill Brook after this date, and the sawmill was in operation some years. When Phineas and Bennet Williams in May, 1790, deeded a piece of land in this neighborhood to Benjamin Dimock, blacksmith, they spoke of this mill as "the old sawmill." (See page 14.)

¹Joseph Churchill and Ichabod Churchill were brothers. They had one own sister, Lucy, wife of Moses Samson, who was killed at Pogue Hole. Their father was a sea-captain and died young, leaving a wife and three children, namely, Ichabod,

Joseph, and Lucy. The mother married for a second husband a man by the name of Fuller, and had many children. Ichabod and Joseph came to Woodstock together, and Moses Samson and wife must have come not far from the same time.

After a while Levi, Joseph's oldest son, took the home farm and undertook to support the old people. Finally he became involved and was obliged to sell out, and so the old folks went to Stowe to live with Mrs. Raymond, a married daughter, and died there. (Nathan T. Churchill, December 10, 1870.)

Keziah Fletcher, daughter of Nathan Fletcher, who died June 4, 1849, at the age of seventy years. Levi died May 24, 1845, and is buried in the cemetery near the site of the West Meeting-House. Sarah married Asa Raymond and lived in Stowe. Miriam married first, Benjamin Dimock. They had a son, Benjamin Churchill Dimock, born May 6, 1798. Benjamin Dimock died October 25, 1797, at the age of twenty. She afterwards married Experience Raymond, and they settled in Stowe. Lucy married Daniel Lothrop, of this town, the 24th of August, 1797, and they settled in Williston. Susan married Harper Sears, the son of Paul Sears, and they settled in Stowe.

Joseph took up his father's occupation of house painter. He went to Windsor when he was fourteen, where he learned his trade; established himself in this village, and was married January 24, 1813, to Mrs. Clara Eddy, daughter of Frederick Meacham. Besides his regular occupation, he served as sheriff of Windsor County several years. Mr. Churchill was full of incidents connected with the early history of the town, which he used to relate with great relish, and with a rich infusion of quiet humor. Yet he was kind and tolerant towards others, and endeavored to exercise a fair and candid judgment in all the transactions of life. He died August 25, 1873. His wife died March 2, 1870, at the age of eighty-five. She was a woman of cheerful disposition, and bore up well under some severe trials which she was called to bear during the course of her life. In her later years she retained in remarkable degree the memory of early experiences, and exhibited great familiarity with the scenes and incidents that occurred in this neighborhood eighty and ninety years ago.

Sylvester Churchill resided in Woodstock till about 1809, and followed the business of a carpenter. As early as 1809 he went to Windsor, and in that year, in company with Oliver Farnsworth, established the "Vermont Republican." In connection with the publication of this newspaper, the company opened a bookstore and printed, published, and sold books, pamphlets, etc. Churchill continued in this business till he was commissioned a lieutenant of artillery in the United States army in 1812. He remained in the service all his life after. He passed through the various ranks of promotion in the line and in the staff, until he became inspector-general and brigadier-general by brevet. Be-

sides serving in the war of 1812, he served also in the Mexican war, and was in the battle of Buena Vista with General Taylor, receiving his brevet for his services on that field. Wherever the American army was known, General Churchill was known as a brave soldier, and an officer who observed and maintained strict discipline. His residence was in Washington. On the 30th of August, 1812, he was married by Oliver Farnsworth, Esq., to Miss Lucy Hunter, daughter of the Hon. William Hunter, of Windsor. They had three children; a daughter who married Professor Baird, of Carlisle, Pa., afterwards chosen to a professorship in Smithsonian Institute, and two sons, Franklin and Charles. The sons began their classical education in the summer of 1837, within the four walls of Judge Pierce's office, including the piazza and stairway leading to it, all under the charge of Mr. Pierson. A few other luminous lads kept them company. Presently they removed with the school to more spacious, if not more elegant, apartments in the judge's barn close by, where they remained, perhaps, as long as the school kept. Classical pursuits did not agree with them both in equal degree. The elder of the two took to his books and was a good student, and is now, or was until recently, a lawyer of good practice, residing in New York. The other laid aside his books, and taking up his father's profession, became a commissioned officer in the army of the United States.

Isaac, the youngest of the four sons of Joseph Churchill, learned the elements of an English education under the care of Ariel Kendrick, Baptist minister, in the old schoolhouse at the Flat. When he was nine years old he took lessons on the snare-drum of a man by the name of Sprague, who beat the drum for Daniel Shays in his famous rebellion. Sprague was giving lessons at the time in Bridgewater, at South Woodstock, and on the Green, alternately; but he stayed about here only a few weeks. Isaac at that time weighed forty-three pounds, as he used to tell, and from this fact was called among the people "the little drummer." He acquired remarkable skill in beating the drum, which occasionally, even late in life, he would exhibit on parade days to admiring crowds. In 1809, in company with Isaiah Raymond, he entered as clerk the store of G. & W. Raymond, Jr., on the Green, where he remained about a year and a half. When the war of 1812 broke out he entered the service,

and spent a short time in camp on the borders of Lake Champlain, then returned home and became clerk for Lyman Mower. With him he spent nine years, part of the time as clerk, part of the time as partner in business, dissolving the connection in April, 1823. On the 18th of October, 1824, he was married to Miss Julia Arnold, then engaged in the millinery business here. Miss Arnold came from Connecticut, and opened a millinery shop in this village the 14th day of May, 1822, taking rooms in David Pierce's house, on Elm Street. After some changes of location, on the 20th of November, 1827, the business was removed to its present stand adjoining the Common, still known as Major Churchill's corner. Mrs. Churchill understood her business perfectly, and long carried on a thriving trade in Woodstock. Twice during the year this worthy couple made a journey to market, usually to New York, to purchase goods and obtain the fashions for the season.¹ The return from these semi-annual trips was always awaited by the fashionable world in Woodstock and vicinity with the greatest interest, as Mrs. Churchill's taste and judgment in her department were regarded as supreme. In fact, all the mercantile concerns in the neighborhood were more or less affected by these visits, and by the decrees that issued from "the corner." In those days railroads had not fairly made a beginning, nor had "Harper's Bazar" established a sanctuary of fashion in every kitchen in the land. Let us pause for a moment in our swift career, and admire the skill with which this excellent lady managed affairs within her comparatively wide domain through so many years. Major Churchill himself died December 7, 1870.² Mrs. Churchill survived her husband till September 18, 1879, when she also closed her long career in trade in this village.

Proceeding down the road a few rods from Joseph Churchill's, there appears a graveyard on the southerly side of the highway. Opposite this there stood for many years a large structure called the "West Meeting-House." It was designed originally for the Baptists, and the story of its erection is related elsewhere. Its

¹ In 1858 the Major made the observation that he commenced going to New York for goods in 1825, and had never seen the city before; had been there seventy-one times, and though a man of steady habits and attached to regularity

in all things, had taken lodgings while in New York at thirteen different houses.

² For further sketch of Major Isaac Churchill, see *Vt. Standard*, December 15, 1870.

side looked towards the highway, and it had porches at each end. Inside it was arranged much as churches generally were in those days, with square pews, high galleries, and a sounding-board. The door opened directly into the house, in front of the pulpit. There were no means for warming the house. In winter weather some of the ladies took foot-stoves or heated bricks to break the chill, and these were the only methods of artificial or external warmth resorted to. The internal fires, in the mean time, may have burned brighter in those days than they do at the present day. The teams were driven to the front door and unloaded, the men, women, and children going into the house and finding their seats, while the driver proceeded to fasten the horses to the trees or other fixtures round about; and wading back through the snow after this was done, he, too, entered the house and took his seat with the rest. Then followed the morning service, including a sermon much longer than people are willing to listen to in their comfortable churches at the present time. At noon the congregation scattered among the neighboring houses, wherever there was a fire to be found, and made themselves at home without asking leave of any one. In the afternoon the congregation reassembled for worship, and continued till the services were closed, which sometimes were protracted till quite late, and then separated for their several homes. Men, women, and children, there was no thought among any of them of being cold in the mean time, or of taking cold.¹

In 1832, the West Meeting-House having been long out of use for religious purposes was given by the proprietors to Elder Hazen, who removed it to the mouth of South Branch, in this village, where it was converted into a tannery.

It should be mentioned that at the Joseph Churchill stand a branch road turned off, and the first farm on this road was taken up by Amasa Delano, or by him occupied some years. Next beyond Delano's farm came the residence of Jacob Bevins, who married Mehitabel, sister to Josiah Dunham. Bevins came from Windham, Conn., not long after Mr. Dunham came. He brought with him goats to serve in the place of cows, and even sheep, till the country should be cleared a little of bears and wolves. Mr. Bevins was the first to plant fruit-trees in that part of the

¹ Norman Williams, who spoke from experience; Mrs. Hazen gave quite the same relation.

town where he lived. He was very watchful over his trees, and in the fruit-bearing season so observant how many and what apples he had on each tree that it was impossible to pick one without his knowing it.

Mr. Bevins served as tithing-man for some years. This was a parish officer annually elected to preserve good order in the church during divine service, and to make complaint of disorderly conduct on the Sabbath. How they managed cases of this kind in old times the following will show : —

“ WINDSOR ss.

WOODSTOCK, 29th Decem^r, 1791.

“ At a Justice Court holden at Woodstock this 29th day of Decem^r A. D. 1791, Present Benj^m Emmons Esqr & Jesse Safford Esqr Justices within and for the County of Windsor. Action on Complaint of Breach of Sabath. Jacob Bivens tythingm vs James Crofford the prisoner being calld & being put to plead pled guilty — it is Considerd by the Court that the said James Crofford pay a fine of four shillings & Cost of prosecution.

“ J. SAFFORD *Justice peace.*”

Mr. Bevins and his wife were both members of the Baptist Church, and were prudent, industrious people. They lived and died on this farm ; Mr. Bevins, December 6, 1812, at the age of seventy-one, and his gravestone tells us he had been a soldier in the French and Revolutionary wars. His wife survived him nearly fifteen years. She lived alone much of the time after her husband's death, but as she was of a social turn of mind and intelligent, the people, old and young, in the neighborhood found her house an agreeable place to visit, and were always welcomed with nice shortcake and good green tea and such fruits as the season afforded, while the hostess enlivened the entertainment with stories of old times in Connecticut, “when we were under Britain.” Among the neighbors everywhere this good lady was known as the “Widow Bibbens.” So the name was pronounced and so spelled in the newspaper notice of her death, and her headstone, set up beside her husband's, bears this inscription : “Mehitable, wife of Jacob Bibbens, died April 16, 1830, aged 86 years.” The old house has been torn down for some years, and the farm added to the Anson Dunham place.

Anson Dunham, whose farm came next, was the eldest son of Josiah Dunham, and captain of one of the companies in the

town, and a man of considerable military reputation in his day. He was born in Coventry, Conn., the 3d of June, 1772, and came to Woodstock with his father's family; occupied this farm many years, and died September 22, 1846. His place is now owned and occupied by Oramel Averill.

The next farm on this road was the residence of George Simmons, brother of Moses and David Simmons, who settled here in 1788, and retained the title to the place till 1795, when he conveyed it to his son Howland. He still continued to reside in Woodstock for some years; finally moved to Stowe, where he died March 26, 1825, in the seventy-ninth year of his age.¹ His wife, Thankful, died at the same place April 24, 1826, at the age of seventy-eight.

Howland Simmons, son of the above, married Experience, daughter of Josiah Dunham, April 17, 1794, and had a large family. He was much employed in the affairs of the town, and was a very useful man. In the latter part of his life he removed to the West. Next beyond Simmons came the farm and residence of Joseph Benson, who was adjoined by Thomas Cobb, an old settler, ancestor of many of the Cobb family who have lived in this town. In course of time the farms of Benson and Cobb were united under George Bradford, who married Clara, daughter of Gershom Cobb.

Right from Joseph Benson's place, on the road towards Bridgewater, lived Oliver Williams, town clerk for many years, of whom more elsewhere. Adjoining him, over the brook, lived Daniel Cox, a little south of Williams. He came from old Middleborough and settled in this town about 1788. His wife's name was Selah. They had a large family of children, among whom were Joseph, Daniel, Earl, and several others, sons and daughters. Directly west was the farm and residence of Levi Thompson, and in the same neighborhood lived Thomas Smith. A little northwest of Oliver Williams was the home farm of Frederick Meacham, whose next door neighbor was the excellent Noah Thompson. Many will still remember Mr. Thompson as one of the best of men, though quiet and unobtrusive. He died April 9, 1848, at the age of seventy-three, and, having no children, he left his whole estate, consisting of a comfortable farm-

¹ See the widow's letter, upon the occasion, to Rev. Hosea Ballou, *Universalist Magazine*, vol. vii., page 3, June 25, 1825.

ing establishment, to the use and disposal of the widow, with remainder at her decease to the Bible Society.

Returning once more to the main road, and proceeding down the highway past the West Meeting-House, we come next to the farm and residence of the Rev. George Daman. The house on this farm was built by Mr. Daman in 1782-83,¹ and is finished off in the best architectural skill of the day. Joseph Safford was the architect and carpenter, and the substantial manner in which this house was constructed affords abundant proof of his good judgment and taste in the line of his profession. After the death of Mr. Daman in 1796, the farm passed to Samuel Daman, his eldest son, who came to be one of the most useful men in the town. He was a man of accurate observation, and by his extensive reading acquired a great fund of knowledge upon various subjects. He was temperate in his habits, industrious, and a faithful magistrate. He was called to fill many offices in the town, and was always ready to do his part in discharging the duties and obligations of a good citizen. He died, March 23, 1858, leaving the farm in the occupancy of his son-in-law, Ashley Wyman.

Passing down the hill we come to the farm occupied for many years by Jabez Bennett, Esq., of whom full mention is made in another place. Adjoining, and next below Esquire Bennett's, was the farm of Seth Washburn, one of the early settlers, who was an industrious and enterprising man, and was blessed with a large family of children. He was converted in this wilderness, and on the 24th of March, 1782, with his wife Elizabeth, was received into full communion in the Congregational Church under the charge of Mr. Daman. He died the 8th of October, 1799, at the age of forty-eight. His son, Captain Seth Washburn, succeeded him in the ownership of the farm and built a new house, which he occupied several years. The farm was then sold to William Scott, afterwards to Nathan T. Churchill, who resided here till 1837. It was then purchased by Moses Shaw, who retained possession of it till his death. It has been recently sold to Wales N. Johnson. The farm is a good one, well situated, and under proper management can be made productive.

¹ "Oct. 23, 1782, The Revd Mr. Demmen Dr. for 99 sq of sashes 1-8-10." quarter of a days work on your house 1-4-0." (Winslow's Account Book.)

"May 17, 1783, for six Days and a

The farm next below Seth Washburn's was owned and occupied by Andrew Thomas for many years, who died the 21st of April, 1834. He had a family of three sons and three daughters. Lemuel, the oldest, was born October 20, 1782; moved to Stowe and died there. Other children were Bezer A., Andrew, Jr., Priscilla, Mary, and Huldah. Andrew, Jr., married Miss Prudence Cox, December, 1820. They lived on the "flats" for a long period.

On the 14th of June, 1776, Joseph Safford, of Hardwick, Mass., bought of Jonathan Grout three hundred acres of land, described as situated near the centre of the township of Woodstock. This tract of land rested on the west bank of Quechee River, and spread out in a northerly direction from the course of the river, with surface beautifully varied by level and hillside. On the plain, removed back from the river some little distance, Mr. Safford built a house which he occupied, and this was the first settlement on the "flats," so called, now West Woodstock. Three years after his purchase he deeded eighty acres of it to his son Jesse, which took in the land now occupied by the mills and a good part of the village which has grown up there. Captain, afterwards Colonel, Joseph Safford, was a man much esteemed among the early settlers, and was elected a member of the convention which met at Windsor to frame the constitution of the State. He was afterward sent to the General Assembly several years, and was recognized everywhere as a man of upright character and of sound religious principles. His children were Jesse Safford, Joseph Safford, Jr., and Challis Safford, and two daughters, Martha, married to Jonas Matthews, and Mrs. Eddy. Jesse Safford, to begin with, occupied a one-story house, which stood on the left hand side of the road, and was the first house on the flats going down the highway. That house in due time was removed to the other side of the road, to serve as the kitchen and back part of a new two-story house erected by Jesse Safford. This house is still standing, and was occupied several years by Aunt Prudy Thomas, the widow of Andrew Thomas, Jr. It descended to her from her father, Ebenezer Cox, who succeeded Jesse Safford in the ownership of the farm. Colonel Joseph Safford died January 19, 1798, at the age of seventy-eight years. Many good words were spoken in his behalf, on the occasion of

his decease, and his headstone was inscribed with the familiar couplet, —

“ Fresh remembrance of the just,
Shall flourish while he sleeps in dust.” ¹

His widow, Martha Safford, survived him a few years and died March 31, 1804, in the seventy-third year of her age. His son, Colonel Jesse Safford, was a man of excellent character and a very influential citizen, so long as he resided in the town. He served as justice of the peace for a considerable period, and was several times elected to the General Assembly, and took an active part in military affairs. In 1811 he removed to Paulet, in Rutland County, and some time after to Pembroke, N. Y.

The family of Colonel Jesse Safford consisted of Mayhew, Betsey, Pliny, Ebenezer, George, John Daman, and Henry Dwight. Mayhew fitted for college, and went to the University of Vermont, where he graduated in 1810. At a bar-meeting, holden September 19th in that year, he was approbated a student in Charles Marsh's office, where he remained for a short time. He settled in the practice of the law at Warsaw, N. Y., and died in 1831. Pliny studied medicine and settled in Westminster, where he took a good position in his profession; was postmaster several years, deacon in the Congregational Church, and died in that town. The other sons went away with the family.

After the death of Colonel Joseph Safford his house was occupied by Moses Bradley, a potter by trade, and his pottery and works are described elsewhere. At the foot of the hill lived Paul Sears, blacksmith, who is spoken of again further on. He was succeeded in the blacksmith's business by William Dimick, then came James Harris, Experience Raymond, and others.

On the 25th of March, 1787, Jesse Williams bought of Joseph Safford, Jr., a piece of land which is described as “situated near the centre of the North Parish, in Woodstock, on the north side of the road leading from the meeting-house in said North Parish up Water Quechee River,” etc. On this piece of land was standing a house built by Colonel Joseph Safford, occupied in later times by Charles Thomas; still remaining, though much

¹ The poetical tributes to Colonel Safford's memory were quite remarkable. See in particular one of Stephen Dela-
no's effusions, in *Spooner's Vermont Journal*, April 18, 1798.

changed and improved from its original build. Into this house Jesse Williams moved from the home farm up the river, and in this house his son, Norman Williams, was born the sixth day of October, 1791. About the same time with this purchase Mr. Williams bought of William Fuller the land opposite, on the south side of the highway, a portion of which he gave to the town for a graveyard. The spot which Mr. Williams selected was in many respects very favorable for business. The great highway up and down the river was here intersected by the road from Barnard, along which at this time was the principal travel between that town and Woodstock. And then, so far as beauty of situation is concerned, no spot in the neighborhood exceeds this. In front of the house Mr. Williams put up a store, consisting of a room sufficiently large for his stock of dry-goods and groceries, and a convenient counting-room at the north end. The potash works were set up on the south side of the road about half way between the house and the burying-ground. The building in which the works were carried on was burnt and afterwards rebuilt, and finally it was taken away and set up as a barn on a hill lot.¹

Here Mr. Williams continued the mercantile business till 1796, when he sold out to Barnard Handy, and was done with trade and traffic. As early as September, 1789, he had purchased of William Smith the farm on the Barnard road, a short distance up the hill. The first person to own, if not occupy, this land, was John Laton, of Hartland, who bought of Oliver Willard, the 11th of May, 1773. In the deed to Laton the land is described as lot 157. As early as 1776 it was taken up by William Smith, who occupied and carried on the farm till he sold to Mr. Williams. Originally the road did not wind round the hill, as it now does, and turn a sharp corner at the intersection between the two burial lots, but passed up the valley to the east and north of the new burial lot and so on to Barnard. Smith's log house stood on the westerly side of the road, about thirty rods southeast of the present dwelling-house on the farm. Smith's wife was Remember Thomas, sister to David Thomas and Phinehas Thomas. She united with the Congregational Church in the North Parish on the day the church was founded, and, through all the divisions and troubles that arose in the church soon after, adhered with singular fidelity

¹ N. Williams.

to her original profession. After Mr. Williams bought this farm she lived in his family, and was nurse for Norman Williams, who in after life used to speak of her most kindly, and about the superior quality of her shortcakes. She died the 10th day of December, 1801. The house now standing on the farm was built by Jesse Williams in 1793. After settling in this place he devoted himself to agricultural pursuits and to the cares of office, which from this time began to occupy much of his attention. Another field of operations at the same time was engaging his thoughts. He became largely interested in land speculations, and in looking after this business made several journeys to New York. He used to relate as matter of observation, during his stay in the city, that from the windows of the room where Maine and Georgia lands and other distant possessions were bought and sold, of the value of which neither buyer nor seller knew anything, could be seen the broad meadows and desirable farms located on the island, which then could be purchased for a hundred dollars an acre, and now they are in the heart of the city.¹ In 1797 Mr. Williams was appointed Assistant Judge of the county court, and in 1803 was promoted to the office of Chief Judge; but with rare modesty he declined this honor and resigned his seat on the bench. He was immediately appointed Judge of the Probate Court, retaining the position till 1815, when he declined serving longer. In 1808 he disposed of the farm on the hill to Jabez King, and moved up the river once more to the family homestead, of which he had become the owner. He died the 27th day of January, 1842, at the age of eighty years.

Passing down the road from the old burial-ground, we come next to the farm now occupied by Payson A. Pierce. This farm was first taken up by William Fuller, a man of some reputation in his day, who stood well in his own opinion, and really possessed a more than ordinary share of intelligence and force of character. He was a blacksmith by trade, and had a shop near his house, where he worked; but his chief occupation was farming. In his religious views he took a decided stand, was received into the Congregational Church in the North Parish on the day it was founded, and through all the troubles that arose soon after was firm and active in maintaining what he regarded as the integrity of the church. In the spring of 1807² he removed from this

¹ N. Williams.

² Record of town meetings.

town with his family and settled in Reading. The farm then passed into the hands of Nicholas Baylies, Esq., who, removing to Montpelier a few years later, sold it to William Lewis, a blacksmith residing in that town. Lewis had a shop a little east of the Branch bridge, on the south side of the street. This shop and the lands appurtenant Mr. Baylies took in exchange for the farm. The site of the old shop is now covered with blocks of high brick buildings.¹ About 1813 Lewis sold the farm to Paul Sears, who was born in Rochester, Mass., in the year 1764. Sears married Hannah Delano, of the same town, daughter of Jabez Delano, and was a blacksmith by trade. Soon after being married he came to Woodstock; located first in the south part of the town; moved presently to the neighborhood of the flats, and set up a blacksmith shop at the foot of the hill, where the brook crosses the road, and on land he purchased of Jesse Williams; moved to Montpelier in 1801, and came back in 1813, and remained on this farm till 1827; then sold out to Simon Warren, Justus Burdick, and others. This farm in later years was owned and carried on by O. P. Chandler, Esq., who sold to Deacon Dana Pierce, and the deacon added to it the Harlow farm.

After Mr. Sears gave up the place he went to Stowe, where he died at the house of his son, Harper D. Sears, the 21st of May, 1846. His wife died in Morristown, at the house of Joseph Sears, another son, the 4th of July, 184—. The children of Paul Sears were eleven in all. The first one died at the age of six months. The second, Betsey, died in Montpelier early in life. The third, Susan, born in Woodstock November 22, 1792 (?), married John Sanderson, and died in this village in a house on South Street, about 1856.

The fourth child, Harper D., born January 9, 1794, married Susan M. Churchill, in February, 1823; settled in Stowe, and died there the 3d of March, 1867, at the age of seventy-three. The fifth child, Joseph S., born November 2, 1795, married Lurinda Joy, of Cornish, N. H., settled in Morristown, and died there the 29th of April, 1855, and is buried in Moretown. The sixth child, Sarah, married Nathaniel Seabury, of Stowe, February, 1822, who removed to the West to live. She survived her husband, and died at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, at the age of seventy-seven years and five months, highly esteemed in the community

¹ N. Williams.

where she lived. The seventh child, Rebecca, married James Barnes, of Ferrisburgh, Vt. They resided some years in that town, then moved to Michigan, where Rebecca is now living (1885), a widow, in the town of Wheatfield.

The eighth child, Azubah, born in Montpelier in 1804, was never married; made her home in Woodstock, and died August, 1869; is buried in Jesse Williams's burial lot; no headstone. The ninth child, Cynthia, born in Montpelier in 1806, came to Woodstock with her parents when she was seven years old, and has resided in this town ever since; is unmarried. The tenth child, Stephen D., born in 1808, studied medicine with Dr. Burnell in this village, settled as a physician in Bridgewater, where he died the 5th day of May, 1838, being then thirty years old. Though his career was brief, he attained a good name in his profession, and his death was much regretted. He too is buried in the old cemetery overlooking the flats. The eleventh child, Nathan, was born in Montpelier in 1810¹; married Miss Laura Mendall, of Rochester, Mass., and settled in that town; attained some distinction in the military, and died at Fairhaven, Mass., June, 1846, of lockjaw. The newspaper states that at the time of his death he was thirty-six years old.

Just below the old Fuller farm, a branch road turns off to the left, leading up the hill to Pogue Hole meadow. Half way up the hill was the farm and residence in former days of Lemuel Harlow, Revolutionary soldier, an honest and devout man, who, with his wife Mary, united with the Congregational Church in this village, March 31, 1782. He came to Woodstock at an early day,¹ pursued farming as his chief occupation, but diversified and cheered the dullness of farm life in the winter with making shoes. He did not make slippers, but shoes with broad soles fastened to the upper leathers by stout wooden pegs, — shoes suitable for Jabez Bennett and other solid men of the times. His wife died September 29, 1793; he himself, the 12th of February, 1812, at the age of sixty-eight. He had sons and daughters; namely, Lewis, Levi, and Joseph; Jerusha and Joanna. Lewis married Lydia Claffin, of this town, November 4, 1798, and settled in Sherburne. After the death of his father he took the home farm,

¹ He bought of Abraham Powers, and land laying on the South Tom lot, a Lot the deed runs: Abraham Powers, of so called," &c.; date June 7, 1779. Har- Woodstock, to Lemuel Harlow, of Mid- low occupied a log house at first. The dieborough, Mass., "a certain tract of frame house was built about 1795.

which he occupied till 1822; then sold out to John W. Bradley and moved to Mansfield. Before taking his departure he warned the public of his intention in the following lively rhymes:—

“ They said to me the other day,
 You sold your farm to move away,
 And if our books are just and true,
 A little something is our due.
 This is to let the people know
 To Mansfield I intend to go;
 The first of March next
 Is the time I have fixed.
 All those I have the luck to owe,
 Please to call and tell me so;
 Some I 'll secure, the rest I 'll pay,
 It is not my intent to run away.

“ WOODSTOCK, *January 21, 1822.*

LEWIS HARLOW.”¹

For rather more than twenty years Mr. Bradley occupied this farm, and, in connection with his farm work, was much interested in buying cattle and sheep for market, and speculated in wool some. Another class of labor in which he largely engaged was drawing stone into the village for building purposes. He himself reckoned that up to 1840 he had drawn on the Green more than five thousand loads. After he gave up the farm it became the property of Deacon Pierce, and was carried on for some years by Mr. Switzer. It is now owned by the Rev. Moses Kidder. The house on the farm was removed by Payson A. Pierce in 1869.

On the top of the hill was the farm and residence of James Cobb, an original settler, who came from old Middleborough, about the year 1777. His wife was Sarah Simmons, a woman of good sense and ready wit, and a thorough housekeeper. Mr. Cobb's first house, built of logs, was placed up the hill, near where the barn now stands on the premises. It was to this house that Moses Sampson was conveyed, when he was shot near Pogue Hole, in June, 1781. The well dug near it is still to be seen. The frame dwelling, put up by Mr. Cobb in 1793, was placed down the hill, a little below the log hut, and, with

¹ Harlow was fond of indulging in verse; here is another specimen:—

“ Stray'd from my door, I know not
 where,

A white fac'd, limping, brown old MARE.
 Who chance to know where she may be,

And send the news unto me,
 I 'll view them with a friendly eye,
 And treat them when their cider 's dry.

“ LEWIS HARLOW.

“ WOODSTOCK, *July 3, 1820.*”

slight changes, served all the occupants of the farm till the present summer (1886), when it was removed by Payson A. Pierce. The frame was found to be composed of such solid timber and in such perfect preservation that the job of taking it down proved to Mr. Pierce anything but easy.

Deacon Cobb continued to occupy this farm till 1819, when he moved to Stowe with his son, Seth, and died there at the age of eighty-four. His children were Orpah, Susan, James, and Seth. Orpah, born October 3, 1776, married William Raymond, Jr. Susanna, born April 6, 1779, died unmarried, February 18, 1813. James, born February 20, 1781, married Joanna Raymond, the daughter of Sylvanus Raymond; died quite young, leaving two daughters. Seth, baptized by Mr. Daman, February 12, 1786, married Abigail Barnes, daughter of Cornelius Barnes, Esq., of Pomfret; moved to Stowe; died there at the age of seventy-seven.

After Deacon Cobb left the farm it was owned and occupied by Eliphalet Thomas, who stripped the place of much of its valuable timber. Afterwards it fell into possession of O. P. Chandler, Esq., who conveyed to Hugh P. Howe, Mr. Howe to Edward Dana, in the fall of 1863. The farm was carried on, after that date, by Charles Dana, till the summer of 1884, and in the fall of that year it became a part of the magnificent domain of Frederick Billings, Esq. Since it was purchased by Mr. Billings some improvements have been made on the place, and more are contemplated. A new barn has replaced the old one on the flat, and adjoining this is a hennery built with all the appliances of modern art. The interior is divided into apartments finished off with hard pine, and arranged in the most complete and suitable manner for the purpose in hand. The establishment is provided with a furnace against the cold season, and the feathered occupants of the premises, as they survey their apartments and reflect upon the conveniences and comforts provided for them, and ready at hand for the business of life, may well say among themselves, What more can an honest hen ask for?

A word should now be said about some of the farms situated on the roads tributary to the main road, over which we have been traveling thus far. One of these comes in at the Andrew Thomas place, and the first farm on this road was occupied by John Raymond, who came from Old Middleborough; a man of some peculiarities both in manner and dress. He wore a cocked

hat with the peak behind and the wide piece let down before, and when he attended *raisings* it was his part to make the pins used for holding the frame together, on a block, with a broad-axe. Thus employed, he remained quite abstracted from the busy raisers, and grandly absorbed in his vocation.¹ He had several sons — Barnabas, Experience, Asahel, John, and Lysander. Barnabas married Polly Mayo, of this town, April 21, 1799; resided in Woodstock. John married Mary Simpson, of this town, the 25th of November, 1810. Lysander occupied the home farm; was an industrious man, and prudent and thrifty in his ways. He took an active part in town affairs, and was much interested in politics; entered warmly into the anti-Masonic movement of former days; was twice elected town representative; and was sheriff of Windsor County several years. In 1848 he joined the Freesoil party, then beginning to be active, and labored in its behalf with the zeal and vigor of early life. He died September 8, 1860, and was succeeded in the occupancy of the home farm by his son, Chauncey, who shared to some extent the peculiarities of his grandfather, John Raymond. Chauncey enlisted in the Seventh Vermont regiment during the war of the Rebellion, and died at Pensacola, Fla., November 20, 1862, at the age of thirty-five years.² Asahel settled in Stowe early in the present century, where he opened a store in the North Village; continued the business at this point till 1817, then purchased the hotel which stood on the site of the present Mansfield House; removed his stock of goods there, and was the first to open a store in that part of the town; continued in trade for some years, and kept a public house till his death, May 2, 1849, at the age of sixty-eight.

Experience married Miriam Churchill, and settled in Stowe, where he died at the age of eighty-one.

Next beyond John Raymond's was the farm of Captain David Dutton, son of Deacon Samuel Dutton, born in Connecticut. August 17, 1767. Captain Dutton was a man of character and influence in the town, and his death from the prevailing fever, February 26, 1813, while yet in the prime, was felt as a great loss to the community. His two sons, Ormond and George D.,

¹ N. Williams.

was killed in battle near Bull Run, Va.,

² Jasper S. Raymond, another son of Lysander Raymond, enlisted in the Twelfth Massachusetts Regiment, and August 30, 1862, aged twenty-eight years. "Both of these young men were buried near the places of their deaths."

were merchants for many years in Boston, esteemed for their integrity and Christian character.¹

Next beyond David Dutton came the farm and residence of Elisha Nye. His son, Thomas Nye, died about 1814. Another son, David T. Nye, resided in Woodstock, was a farmer by occupation, a deacon in the Christian Church, and in the business of life a man of integrity and uprightness. He died May 25, 1884.

On the road that turned off at the old Washburn place, the first house was occupied by Arthur Bennett, brother to Jabez, who came from Old Middleborough with the family, and settled in this town at an early day. He died on the 22d day of April, 1829; his wife, Elizabeth, four years after. Among his children were Benjamin, Arthur, Ebenezer, and Rebecca.

The next house on this road was the residence of Elias Cobb, brother to Binney Cobb, in early years a deacon in the Baptist Church; after that church became extinct, appointed an elder in the Christian Church, to which office he was ordained by Uriah Smith, the 20th of April, 1808.² He died several years ago, and is buried at West Randolph.

Elder Cobb had a large family. The oldest son, Elias, born August 4, 1790, graduated at Dartmouth College in 1817, studied law, and settled in Anson, Me., where he attained some eminence in his profession. He married Miss Sophia P. Dickinson, of Northfield, Mass., Tuesday, April 24, 1827, and died in 1848. Samuel W. Cobb, another son, settled in Randolph. The house Elder Cobb occupied was taken down by Stephen P. McClay, and the land is now a part of the McClay farm. The place where Erastus E. Thomas now lives was formerly a part of the Bevins farm. The house on the premises was built by Anson Dunham, and about 1862 improved by Mr. Thomas.

Next above Elias Cobb's was the residence of William Bennett, Jr., brother of Jabez Bennett. These were all children of William Bennett, Sr., who died February 24, 1784, in the fifty-seventh year of his age, and is buried in the old cemetery overlooking Bennett's Mills, apparently the oldest headstone in

¹ Ormund Dutton died in Boston, about 1858. He continued through life an exemplary and useful man, and at the time of his death was one of the deacons of Essex Street Church, under the pastoral care of Rev. Nehemiah Adams. (N. Williams.)

² As Deacon Cobb I first heard his prayers and exhortations, and felt quite sure he was a good man. As Elder Cobb I believed him still a good man, but better as a deacon. (N. Williams.)

the yard being set up at his grave. William Bennett, Jr., died August 19, 1838; Patience, his wife, a few days later. The farm in later times was owned by Reuben Daniels.

Beyond William Bennett lived John Raymond, 2d, commonly called "Fiddler John." He came with the rest of the Raymond family from Old Middleborough. His skill with the fiddle made him an indispensable man at all the merry-makings in the neighborhood, such as weddings, quiltings, apple-parings, etc. Such being his disposition, he took life easily, and for low-spirited people he had small compassion, as many a story told of him goes to show. He died March 12, 1804, at the age of forty-two. His wife, Priscilla, who was a member of the Cox family, survived him many years, and died the 19th day of July, 1857, at the age of ninety-one. John left a large family, including Cyrus, Elisha, Susanna, Silvia, Chester, Sally, and Alvira. The family scattered. Cyrus lived in Massachusetts, and died there at an advanced age; Elisha died in Woodstock, on or near the old place; Chester lived in Woodstock some years, moved out West, and died in Manchester, Iowa.

Next to John Raymond lived Philemon Sampson, an early settler; a man of good character; died April 3, 1846, at the age of eighty-three. West of Philemon Sampson was the residence of Gershom Cobb; but the buildings which Cobb occupied have been torn down, and the land has been joined to the farm occupied in later times by George N. Bradford.¹

At a fork in the roads near the Bradford house stood in early times the schoolhouse, in what is now District No. 2. They have had four schoolhouses in this district, the first a log building put up in 1790. This stood ten years, and then took fire one day and was consumed. Its place was supplied by a frame building put up in 1800, which lasted till 1819, and was then taken down and a brick schoolhouse erected in place of it. This latter,

¹ "Gershom Cobb, with his Father's family (wife and 7 children) moved from Middlebrough, Mass., in the year 1787 (I think) and settled in the northwest part of Woodstock now known as the Cox district. Gershom was born in Middleboro, Mass, on September 27th 1766 Married Judith Tillson of Middleboro born July 22, 1768 They were married Jany 19, 1794, had two children, Asenath born

Februy 25th 1797 Died July 25th 1803 Clara, born July 31th 1799 married George Bradford April 3d 1826, there are none of my fathers brothers or sisters living.

" Nov. 22d, 1885,

" Mrs. GEORGE BRADFORD,

" Island Creek, Mass."

Gershom Cobb died March 11, 1841; his wife Judith, Sept. 12, 1853.

in 1859, was in turn removed, and the building now in use erected in place of it by David Walker. The site of the schoolhouse has been the same from the beginning, namely, on land given to the district by Oliver Williams. He was the original occupant of the farm now owned by George Cox, and the piece of land on which the schoolhouse stands came out of that farm. Clara Cobb taught the school in 1817; Samuel Wood for the winter terms of 1819, 1820, 1821.

At a short distance north of Philemon Sampson's came the house where Gaius Cobb, brother to Binney, lived and died; a man of much native shrewdness of mind, quick-witted, always ready with an answer; born April 12, 1779, died October 3, 1846. At the Philemon Sampson place a road turns off, which leads to English Mills. The first house on this road formerly belonged to Lucas Mayo, but the buildings are now torn down and the farm belongs to the Challis Safford place, occupied in recent times by Joseph S. Pratt. Opposite Joseph S. Pratt's is a house and farm once occupied by Joseph Pratt, one of the first settlers in this neighborhood. He died in 1826, and the farm after his death was occupied some years by his widow, Susanna, who died in 1839. More recently it has been the property of Carlos Pratt's widow.

Following the road in an easterly direction next came the farm of Bela Simmons, now occupied by his grandson, Austin E. Simmons. Next below, and easterly of Simmons's, was the farm and residence of Elias Smith, who had a numerous family. Below Smith's, on the way to English Mills, stands a house formerly occupied by Alfred Simmons. This was at first a store building, by whom used for this purpose has not been told; by and by was converted into a dwelling-house by Terah Bennett, still another brother to Jabez. Simmons bought the place of Terah, tore down the old kitchen, and put up a new one. The place is now owned by his son Henry.

Before proceeding on to English Mills it is proper to return once more to the main road, and to the residence of Jesse Williams, who was succeeded in the occupancy of the place by Jabez King.¹ This farm is now owned and occupied by James Udall King. Next beyond the Williams place, on the way to Barnard, came the residence of Captain Challis Safford, son of Colonel Jo-

¹ For a full sketch of Jabez King, see *Vermont Standard*, January 20, 1870.

seph Safford. His house stood on the hill just beyond the crossing of the brook. In due time this house was taken down and moved to the edge of Bennett's mill-pond, very near it; then partially set up once more; then moved whole to the site it now occupies just below the Cox house, on the flats where Mrs. Thomas now lives. This was done not far from the year 1800.¹ Previous to Captain Challis Safford this house, or one near by, was occupied by a man named Francis Brannock, of whom very little is known. On the left hand side of the road, further along, stood a house occupied by Consider Fuller, who had several sons and daughters. One of these sons, also named Consider, lived at the house of Jesse Williams for many years as boy and man, and was well reputed at home and abroad. This house has been taken down.

Next up the hill came the farm and residence of Nathaniel Ladd, who moved from Coventry, Conn., to Woodstock, at an early day. This is a very fine farm, pleasantly located, and its original owner, Nathaniel Ladd, was one of the solid men of the town. He raised an industrious, thriving family, was a member of the Congregational Church, which he sustained through every vicissitude, and bore a good character in all places. He died October 31, 1837, at the age of eighty years, and the home farm passed to his son, Mason Ladd, who married Susan Dutton, the daughter of Captain David Dutton, a very worthy woman. After the death of Mason Ladd the farm passed to his son, Mason W. Ladd, who now carries it on, is a deacon in the Congregational Church, a prosperous man, and valuable citizen.

Next above Nathaniel Ladd's, on the top of the hill, was the farm of Jacob Gilbert, who, after the custom of the times, raised a numerous family of children. Among the number may be counted Jonathan, Jacob, Nabby, Dexter (?), and Sally. He died September 24, 1826, aged seventy-six years, and it was said of him at the time that he was a kind husband and a tender parent. The farm was afterwards occupied by Edwin O. Ladd, son of Mason Ladd, who removed to Milwaukee in 1856.

Next beyond Jacob Gilbert's was the farm of George Thomas, famous in old times for its apple orchards, especially the class of trees that bore summer-sweetings, a kind of apple that seems to

¹ (John W. Bradley, 1869.) Mrs. styled it, which is indeed bounded by that Thomas died April 15, 1872. Horace brook; that the house was moved down on King told me (1869) Francis Brannock's the flats, and is now a part of the house house stood on the Priest Lot, as they recently occupied by Mrs. Woodruff.

have disappeared from this vicinity. In later times the farm has not lost its reputation in this respect, and still produces an abundance of fine apples.

George Thomas was a shrewd and knowing old gentleman as well as a careful and thrifty farmer, and was held in good repute throughout the community. He was succeeded in the occupancy of the farm by his son, Joseph Thomas; after whom it passed into the possession of Joseph C. McKenzie, who still occupies the place.

It remains to speak of the school and the schoolhouse in District No. 4, and the pleasantest way to do this will be to give the personal reminiscences of Mr. Williams about the same. "On the north side of the street running along the flat is the schoolhouse in District No. 4. In my earliest school-days this building was a wooden structure nearly fifty feet long. It had a chimney at each end, and two front doors near the corners of the house, each opening into an entry where the boys and girls deposited their hats and bonnets. The writing-desks were placed against the side walls, each running the length of the school-room, so that the writers sat with their faces to the wall and windows, and with their backs to the centre of the room, an arrangement which I never saw in any other house, but one which was not without its advantages. The school gathered in the house was in the winter term of three months a very large one. At that period I was a small boy, and usually sat on one of the low seats running in front of, and generally parallel with, the seats before the writing-desks. The first master whose instruction I attended for a whole winter was Nathaniel Dutton, then a member of Dartmouth College. I think it must have been in the winter of 1798-99. The scholars in that and the next winter, as I now remember it, seemed to be nearly the same persons. There was a great number who answered to the name of Thomas. The Thomases were amazingly prolific, and were all honest and well-behaved people. They never did any mischief, and never aspired to high seats in the synagogue or other places. From the home of Colonel Simeon Thomas there came about six, George Thomas furnished six, and Andrew Thomas five. There were scholars from the houses of Samuel Daman, Jabez Bennett, Arthur Bennett, Seth Washburn, John Raymond, David Dutton, Elisha Nye, Jesse Safford, Mrs. Eddy, Moses Bradley, Paul Sears, Barnard Handy, Jesse

Williams, Nathaniel Ladd, Jacob Gilbert, Consider Fuller, William Fuller, Lemuel Harlow, James Cobb, and Elias Cobb, within the district, and occasionally some from without the district. Mr. Dutton kept the school in the winter of 1799-1800, and at the close of the school there was an exhibition at the West Meeting-House, where were enacted the tragedy of Cato, Belshazzar or Daniel (in Babylon), and a number of dialogues with appropriate dresses and illustrations, which was thought to be the greatest dramatic achievement of the day. The performances commenced early in the evening, and lasted to a late hour in a dark, moonless, muddy night in the month of March. There was music in the interludes, and I recollect Mr. Daniel Taft, whom I then saw for the first time, came along the road with us on our way home, and he walked the whole distance, about six miles, that night, and was very cheerful in the performance of the journey. Mr. Dutton was employed for the third winter, but in the midst of his term the schoolhouse took fire one night, and was utterly consumed, with all its books and benches. Its place was supplied the next summer by a square, brick edifice, with a projecting porch, built according to the fashion of the day, in which I went to school two or three winters. That schoolhouse was built in the summer of 1802, and after receiving divers patches and additions was removed in the summer of 1858, and gave place to a large and commodious schoolhouse, placed a few rods north of the old house, and built and finished that same season."

CHAPTER VI.

FROM ENGLISH'S MILLS TO TAFTSVILLE.

ENGLISH'S MILLS are situated about two and a half miles from the Court-House, on a branch of the Quechee, called formerly Beaver Brook, and then Barnard Brook or North Branch. Quite a village has in time grown up around these mills. Joel English, from whom the mills took their name, was born in Andover, Conn., the 9th day of December, 1766. When about twelve years old he was bound out to Benjamin Burtch, in Woodstock, and was set to tending Strong & Burtch's mill on North Branch. During the years he was thus employed his fare was neither abundant nor rich, and oftentimes feeling hungry between meals, he would mix a little meal with water and bake it at the fire-place in the mill, and thus quiet the cravings of his appetite. While living at Burtch's, he became acquainted with his cousin, Tryphena Strong, the daughter of Benajah Strong. By consent of the parties interested, the young couple were married the 25th of July, 1788. After the marriage they still continued to live with Mr. Burtch about two years; but in 1789, English bought of John E. Spencer a hundred-acre lot on the North Branch. Just below him was another hundred-acre lot, owned by Simon Davis, Jr. About this time Davis set up a grist-mill here, and in connection with Samuel Fuller, a saw-mill also, of which he owned one fourth and Fuller three fourths. Fuller deeded his share in the concern to James Washburn the 26th of April, 1790, described in the deed as "three quarters of a new saw-mill standing and being in the northwest part of Woodstock near the house of Simon Davis, Jr." Then three years later Phineas Davis deeded to Joel English the saw-mill and mill yard, "built and known by the name of Simon Davis and Samuel Fuller's mill."¹

¹ *Land Records*, vol. ii., p. 361. Phineas Davis had received a deed of this property from Simon Davis, Jr., April 23, 1790, described as "five acres and one hundred rods of land, together with one grist-mill and a fourth part of a saw-mill now standing on said premises."

Two years after this, Bennett & English bought of Simon Davis, Jr., the grist-mill, and Davis removed from the town. The mills were now enlarged and improved, and from this time onward the place came to be known as English's mills.

Mr. English first occupied a log house, which stood twenty or twenty-five rods northwest of the present homestead, in the corn-field near the stone wall.¹ The road from Bridgewater then passed considerably above the site of the present house, down in front of the log house, to Barnard Brook, which it then crossed, and ran down along the left bank of the brook and below the mill, and so on to the Green. All about the present house was an orchard. In the summer of 1804, Mr. English began putting up a frame house, which he did not finish the first year, nor for some time after. The house, when completed, he occupied the rest of his life. He also laid out a road, which branched from the Bridgewater road and ran south of his house through the orchard. People passing that way readily fell in with this arrangement; and thus the road laid out by Mr. English became the established line of travel, and the old road fell into disuse.

Tryphena Strong, the wife of Joel English, was born in Hartford, Vt., January 12, 1770. She died on the 28th day of December, 1846, after an illness of eleven days. She had been a member of the Christian Church in this village for thirty-nine years, sustaining in the mean while a good Christian character. Joel English died December 19, 1852. He had two sons and one daughter. Henry W. English, the oldest son, resided in Woodstock; was born the 27th of January, 1805, and died April 2, 1885. He was always an honorable and upright man, of excellent spirit, and esteemed by all as a most valuable citizen. William S. English, another son, is still living. A sister, Sarah English, was married to Jacob Boyce, of this town, one of the best of men, who came to his death by a sad accident the first day of November, 1862. His wife survived him till the fourth day of May, 1872, and died at the age of seventy-five.

Going up towards Bridgewater is Isaac Raymond's farm, still occupied by his descendants; next beyond him the farm of Lyman

¹ July, 1870. This log house Mr. English probably built in 1790. Jonathan Reynolds, in his account-book, has charged to Joel English, August 27, 1790, "To sawing a door and Covering house, 3/-;" also debtor about same time "to oxen to move, 1/6;" also debtor, Sept. same year, "to my mear to harford, 2/-;" also, in November of same year, "To toping out your chimney, 9/-."

Cobb, son of Binney Cobb. Near the mills Binney Cobb established a casting-furnace early in this century, at which he made all kinds of machinery under one hundred weight, including such articles as Rumford's fire doors and grates, Clothier's screw-boxes for old screws, and patent right screws for cider-presses, etc., — quite a flourishing establishment for a season. Above the Cobb farm was Hosea Vaughan's place, taken up by Hosea Vaughan, Sr., father of Hosea and Ivory L. Hosea, the son, succeeded his father as owner of the place, which is now carried on by George Vaughan, of the third generation. Next above is the farm of Edwin O. Thompson.

About fifty rods below the mills, on the road to the Green, lived in early times Aether Matthews, son of Joel Matthews, in a small house which has long since been demolished. Aether was a soldier of the Revolution; resided in the town some years; was farmer, postrider through the neighborhood for the Windsor papers; finally went to Salisbury, Mass., to live; visited Woodstock for the last time about forty years ago, and wished to come back here and live once more; but this arrangement was not possible. Farther down the road lived Robert Cone, who, like many others of the early inhabitants, besides farming it for a living, made boots and shoes. He came from Westminster; bought at first only land sufficient for a building spot; added to this purchase from time to time small pieces of land, till it grew into a farm. His father lived with him, who was a Revolutionary pensioner, too fond of ardent spirits for his own good. Mr. Cone possessed singular evenness of temper and was a man of careful judgment in all things, and, what is further deserving of note, made it a matter of conscience never to stay away from free-man's meeting. A man sadly afflicted in his family by the loss of his children, one after the other, stricken down by fever.¹ He died November 7, 1871, at the age of eighty-five.

The building by the dam at this point was erected by William S. English in 1839. It was built for a starch-factory; but about

¹ "The visitations of Providence to this family [Mr. Cone's] have truly been mysterious and deeply affecting. But little more than three years since they numbered in their family six children, whose kind disposition and excellent moral character gave fair promise to their parents

of prosperity and happiness to themselves and of usefulness to society. Of that number five now lie side by side in the grave-yard. Two of them had made a public profession of religion; and the moral character of them all was above reproach."—*Vermont Mercury*, Oct. 18, 1844.

this time the potato rot set in, and for some years was so widespread and universal that scarcely potatoes enough for home use were raised in the country, and in consequence the idea of establishing a starch-factory here was abandoned. The building remained unused for ten years. About then Mr. English fell in with Austin Miller, who had been engaged in the rake-making business in Pomfret, and it occurred to him that it would be a good move to turn this vacant building into a rake-factory. This he did in company with Mr. Miller, who remained in the business one year, then sold out to Mr. English, and took up the study of medicine, graduating at the Vermont Medical College in 1853. Mr. English went on alone in the business after this, and soon his rakes acquired a world-wide reputation. He manufactured from three hundred to eight hundred dozen yearly, according to circumstances, and continued in the business till the spring of 1884, when he sold out to B. H. Pinney. Mr. English's residence is next below Mr. Cone's.

Just below the turn of the road stands now a modern brick house. On the site of this stood, at first, a long wooden house, colored brown, built by William Drew, a man of some eccentricities, but kind-hearted and well esteemed among his neighbors. He came from Rhode Island about the year 1793, and bought a tract of land lying between the old farm of Elisha Taylor and the Cone place, and extending up and over the hill to Pomfret line. On the top of this hill he put up a hut under a big maple tree, to give him shelter, and inside built a fireplace against the tree. Here he cooked his food and rested nights, while engaged through the summer in clearing and cultivating a piece of land, and when winter set in, covered up the ashes in his fireplace and went down to Nathan Howland's for the cold season. The next year he married Dolly Houghton, sister to Israel Taylor Houghton, and his first child, Marshall, was born in 1795.¹ About the same time he began the building of the "long wooden house." In the course of time he sold off part of the farm to his son, Marshall, who built a house on the hillside above his father's, and lived there, a married man, till his death in 1848. After that the farm passed through various hands, and finally the house was taken down.

William Drew died January 30, 1841, and his wife six months

¹ Mrs. Benson.

after.¹ The place was then sold to John T. McKenzie, who died soon after; and in the fall of 1842 Justin F. McKenzie moved into the house and occupied it till September, 1852, when the old house was burnt. Two years afterwards Mr. McKenzie built the brick house, and this is now owned and occupied by Justin S. Montague.

Proceeding down the road we come to a frame house, a modern structure, occupying the site of the house in which Joseph McKenzie once resided. In the spring of 1806, Mr. McKenzie bought of Nathan Thomas the piece of land on which this frame house stands, and set up a blacksmith-shop beside the brook. At the same time he bought of Mr. Thomas Elisha Taylor's store building, moved it to this site, and converted it into a dwelling-house. In this house all his children were born, the first child being born July 20, 1806, and here Mr. McKenzie lived and worked at his trade for many years. The house and land passed afterwards to Mallory Howe, who married Harriet A. McKenzie, Joseph's daughter. About the year 1858, the place was sold to Amos French, who presently tore down the old house and erected the frame house in its stead.

Next below, in old times, was the residence of Elisha Taylor, innkeeper and trader, a man once of considerable celebrity. The original proprietor of this farm, a hundred-acre lot, was Samuel Matthews. He does not seem to have occupied the farm long, and in the summer of 1793 sold out to Taylor. The road in those days passed over the knoll, not round it. On the top of the knoll, in a most sightly position, Taylor built his inn, or Traveler's Home, and on the opposite side of the road set up a store. He remained here till 1795, and then transferred his business to the Green. In that year he mortgaged the place to Zebina Curtis, of Windsor, describing it in the mortgage deed as "the farm he bought of Samuel Matthews, containing all the Matthews farm and the buildings, except the house which said Matthews built, which is to be moved off the said premises."² After Elisha Tay-

¹ Drew's wife joined the company of Pilgrims, so called, that collected in 1818, near Mr. Cone's house. She went off with the rest. The company journeyed westward till they reached an island in the Ohio River, and at some part of this journey in search of the promised land,

Mrs. Drew left them and found her way back at last, afoot and alone. Her husband told her she was welcome to a place in the house, if she wished, but he could not receive her again as his wife.

² *Land Records*, vol. iii., p. 52.

lor left the farm, it was occupied two or three years by Roger Williams. Then Nathan Thomas took possession of it, about the 27th of April, 1801. He was the father of Dr. Nathan H. Thomas, who settled in Stowe as practicing physician in 1830, was overseer of the poor in that town for several successive years, assistant judge of Lamoille County in 1841 and 1842, and in 1854 adopted the homœopathic system of medication, and has practiced wholly on that system ever since.

In more recent times this farm was occupied by Jacob Boyce, a kind-hearted, most estimable man, whom it was ever a pleasure to meet. It is now occupied by William D. Foster, who by his great improvements on the place has made it one of the finest situations in the neighborhood.

The two-story house standing on the left, just below Mr. Foster's, and near the bridge, was built or repaired by Barna Thompson, brother to Deacon Salmon Thompson. The well on the opposite side of the road was dug by Leonard Benson, who for a while lived in this house. Formerly the road, instead of crossing the brook by the bridge at this point, turned to the left and passed along the hillside a little above the flat. This flat was then all a swamp, covered with alder, and considered unfit for habitation and of no value. The first settlers in the neighborhood were Joel and Jonas Matthews, and Simon Davis. Some time previous to 1770, Joel Matthews moved with his family from Surry, N. H., to North Hartland, where he owned a large tract of land. About the first year of the war he moved over into Woodstock and located on the hillside, westerly of the house where Charles Case now lives, and built a log house near the foot of the hill on the west side of the brook. It had an out-door cellar somewhat like a potato hole, and was tenanted, after the Matthews built the frame house, by different persons who worked for them on the farm. The frame house was built as soon as they could make it convenient after coming to live on the farm. It was burnt Thursday morning, May 13, 1824, and Jonas Matthews then built the present house.

Joel Matthews was a carpenter by trade; he also had considerable experience as a surveyor, and for a while filled the place of county surveyor. He had further some military experience in the Revolutionary War, and received on the 4th of January, 1776, a commission as second major in the upper regiment in

Cumberland County, of which Joseph Marsh was colonel. He deeded his farm to Jonas, and lived with him till near the close of his life, but died away from here some time about the year 1818.¹ His son Jonas was born in 1753. He enlisted as a minute-man during the War of the Revolution, and was out on service two months; was afterwards drafted, but furnished a substitute. His first wife was Martha Safford, daughter of Colonel Joseph Safford. She died December 29, 1796, at the age of thirty-eight. His second wife was Miss Susan Anthony, sister to John Anthony, and aunt to Susan B. Anthony, of Rhode Island. There were no children by either marriage. He spent his days on the old farm, now occupied by Mr. Case, and died there the 6th day of August, 1849. Xena, daughter of Joel, born in 1755, married a Mr. Topliff and moved to Potsdam, N. Y. Aether, another son, born in 1757, has been spoken of. Samuel, still another son, born in 1760, was married and had two children while residing in Woodstock; namely, John, baptized by Mr. Daman November 13, 1785, and Joel, baptized December 30, 1787. He studied medicine, and went away from here to parts unknown to his family. Forty or fifty years after his disappearance, a report got into circulation that a Dr. Samuel Matthews had died in France, leaving a very large estate and no one to inherit it. But nothing definite or satisfactory ever grew out of this report.

Leaving Joel Matthews's place and coming down the road, the next farm was occupied by Simon Davis, who settled in the town as early as the year it was organized. At the annual town meeting May 17, 1774, he was elected fence-viewer, a high and mighty office to fill, when there was scarcely a rod of fence in the town. The house he lived in is still standing without much change. Nathan Howland used to say it was built three years before his own, and he was present at the raising. This would make it built in 1777. George Chedel's statement is as follows, made July 16, 1885.

Simon Davis and Phinehas built the house where Chedel lives. When they built it they could not get nails. They took some white oak and made pins to fasten down the floor-boards. In the kitchen a part of the old floor still remains, showing the

¹ In his old age he became blind, but still preserved his genial temper, and the children living in the house or visiting would climb into his lap and call for a story. This they sometimes got; at other times the old gentleman would reply "his stories were all frozen up." (Mrs. Chandler, 1869.)

Mr. Chedel, where he resided till his death, the 21st of June, 1831.¹

When Nathan Howland first established himself in the frame house, his next neighbors below were Captain John Strong and Benjamin Burtch, Jr. The father of this Benjamin came from Stonington or New London, Conn., about the year 1765, and settled in Hartford on the farm afterwards occupied by the Udalls. He occupied a log house at first, and farmed it for a living. Accommodations were poor, then, and before Marsh's mills were built Burtch pounded his corn for family use in a mortar. As soon as the improvements in the settlement warranted, he built a large frame house, which was located directly above and near by the present house on the farm. In this house he kept tavern several years. In 1772 three brothers, Oliver, Lionel, and Samuel Udall, moved from Stonington, Conn., to Hartford, and settled near by Mr. Burtch. Lionel took up the farm now occupied by William Cowdrey, and built the old barn still on the place, the same that served for a meeting-house a number of years. The Udalls were related to Burtch, who married their sister Abigail.²

Benjamin Burtch had several sons and daughters. Jonathan, one of them, was a physician, and is reported to have moved to Canada about the year 1804 with other members of the family. William, another son, was a trader, and carried on a large business, first in company with his father, then with the Udalls, then alone. Besides his retail trade he sold great quantities of goods at wholesale, and rivaled the modern firm of Jordan, Marsh & Co. in the extent and variety of his business. He had a potash, sometimes two of them, set up in every town in the neighborhood. There was a pottery attached to the concern, and a heavy trade was done in ginseng. The company had a secret for preparing the root, so that in the process it became handsome and clear as crystal; but the secret perished, as ginseng went out of use. All these various branches of business kept many hands

¹ The records of Old Middleborough inform us that Drusilla Howland, daughter of Seth and Lydia Howland, was born August 22, 1739; married Archippus Cole. Nathan Howland, son of Seth and Lydia Howland, was born February 27, 1741-2; Deborah, born March 18, 1747-8; Betsey, born July 14, 1754.

Seth Howland, son of Nathan and Priscilla Howland, was born October 19, 1765. He was an only child, came to this town with his parents, married Harriet, daughter of Benjamin Emmons, had a numerous family, and died January 2, 1814.

² Born January 28, 1729.

employed; and for some years Burtch retained Lewis Pratt for his blacksmith, Barna Richmond for his cooper, and Willis Hall as the manager of his potash works. One evidence of his extended trade is found in the justice dockets of the day and the dockets of the county and supreme courts, which swarm with suits he brought against delinquent debtors. In the year 1786 he built the present Udall house, using the cellar of this house for storing liquors and some West India goods, for want of room elsewhere.

Burtch continued in active trade till about the year 1808. He then broke up his connections in Vermont and moved to Cincinnati with his family, thence to Indiana, and while they were traveling down Wabash River the fever set in upon them, sweeping off all the family except two children. One of these, William by name, was living a short time ago in Vincennes, Indiana.

How Benjamin Burtch, Jr., settled in Woodstock in company with John Strong has been related already. These two men kept tavern as long as they resided in Woodstock. Their frame house, according to Elias Thomas, they raised in 1777. It was set up to face a little southerly, with a narrow double folding door placed in the middle of the building. In the easterly end was the guests' sitting-room. Additions and improvements, though on a narrow scale, were made on and about the house from time to time, for the household by degrees came to be a very large one. There were Captain Strong and wife, Elizabeth Strong and John Strong, children of Elijah Strong, a brother, and Tryphena Strong, daughter of Benajah. Add to these Joel English, who kept the mill, and Levi Washburne, an indented boy, and we have the captain's share in the household. Burtch's share consisted of himself and wife, and a fine flock of children, which was constantly increasing in numbers. It must be borne in mind also that these people kept public house, and room must be always provided for the traveler whenever he put up here, which was not an infrequent occurrence. But this crowded state of affairs did not continue always. In 1788 the jail-house was built on the Common, and in October of that year Captain Strong occupied that establishment in the double capacity of jailer and inn-keeper. In 1792 Burtch leased the home farm to Ozias Hoisington and Israel T. Houghton, and

moved to the Green, taking possession of the jail-house, which was known for many years after this as Burtch's tavern.

In the course of ten or twelve years after moving on the Green, this family all broke up by reason of embarrassments in business. In 1804 Captain Strong and his wife and young Benjamin Burtch, now twenty years old, with other members of the family, moved to Canada and settled in Argenteuil, on the banks of the Ottawa, thirty-five miles west of Montreal. Two years after reaching the new country the captain died and was buried among the trees, and his wife soon followed him. Hers had been a pilgrimage filled with strange vicissitudes, and with abundance of toils and sufferings at every stage, but here at last she found rest from them all. Young Benjamin Burtch took kindly to the new country, married and had a large family, and lived to be ninety years old and upwards. His father remained in Woodstock till 1806, when he sold out to Joseph Parkhurst, of Royalton, and went away.¹ The old homestead on North Branch became in due time the property and residence of Colonel Daniel Dana, who died in this town Sunday morning, September 3, 1848, at the age of seventy. In the last war with Great Britain Colonel Dana commanded the 31st regiment of United States infantry, and was a worthy and meritorious officer. He was the son of John Winchester Dana, Esq., of Pomfret, and grandson of General Israel Putnam, of the Revolutionary army. About the year 1852 the farm passed into the possession of Deacon Salmon Thompson, of North Bridgewater, and is now occupied by his son, George E. Thompson.

The house on the right hand side of the road, next below Mr. Thompson's, was originally the old toll-house that stood at the toll-gate kept a long while just above Colonel Dana's house. The widow of Benjamin F. Dana, deceased, son of Colonel Dana,

¹ "There was no tombstone erected for them [Capt. Strong and his wife] as it was a new settlement and the church yard was all in timber at that time and they were about the first that were buried in it. There was a family Bible belonging to Capt. Strong's second wife, and Capt. Strong had one also, but these were both burnt about 30 years ago in his (Benjⁿ Burch's) son's house. Capt. Strong's second wife was widow Hoisington. She had no children to Capt.

Strong. Her son Ozias Hoisington married this Benjamin Burch's sister and had three children named as follows: Jasper Hoisington is in Chicago; Chester lives in Rockford, Illinois; and a daughter who died some years ago." (Letter from Alex. McV. Burch, Lachute, Province Quebec, August 25, 1870.) Mr. Strong's family Bible was the "Great Bible," returned in the inventory of Joab Hoisington's estate.

had it moved to this place and made over, and she now occupies it. The main building of the cottage next below used to be the office or library of the Rev. B. C. C. Parker when he lived on the Marsh hill, and was put up by Mr. Parker about forty-seven years ago. In 1859 Charles Marsh sold this office to Aaron H. Emerson, who moved it to the present site, put on an addition of twelve feet, and converted it into a dwelling-house, in which he lived many years. In 1879 Mr. Billings made it over into the neat and convenient cottage it now is.

When the Shunpike,¹ which turns off to the left above Mr. Thompson's house, was opened in 1836, the toll-gate was moved down the road to the crossing near by this cottage, and here, on the right of the road, David Bosworth stuck up a little caboose to serve as a station for the gate-keeper during the day. At night the keeper sought lodgings elsewhere. One night, during his absence, an enemy came and filled the stove in the caboose with powder, whereby the thing blew up. A small dwelling-house was then prepared, to take its place. This was framed in Royalton, by Curtis Fowler, Mr. Blodgett, and David Bosworth, and drawn to Woodstock and set up between the elm-trees a little above the turn of Pogue Hole Brook. Mr. Bosworth was now installed gate-keeper, and occupied this house, and continued to occupy, till at length peace was restored between the belligerent parties.² After the gate was removed the house was bought by Levi Benson and moved across the road to where it now stands, fixed up, and occupied by Mr. Benson the rest of his days.

The mill and mill-privilege on North Branch now owned by A. W. Thompson must have been established at this point as early as 1779. Notices of the mill, occurring in old account-books, show that fact. It was sometimes styled Captain Strong's

¹ Shunpike, a word used by Gen. Lyman Mower, who laid out this road, as he also laid out another, with like intent, in the south part of the town, and always designated each as a "Shunpike."

² It was while Mr. Bosworth was stationed here as gate-keeper that two of the town authorities of Woodstock invaded his premises, with intent to remove that gate. Mr. Bosworth, who was a

man of stalwart proportions and physical strength to match, on learning the errand of his visitors, resisted the process, and with such effect that his invaders were completely overthrown in the ditch. He then went on further to remark to the authorities, as they picked themselves up and walked off: "I have no objections to your taking away the gate, if only enough of you 'll come."

Mill, and sometimes Burtch's Mill.¹ After Burtch moved to the Green he conveyed the mill-privilege to his brother William, who presently found a miller in Captain David Thomas.

David Thomas belonged to the "Pond Thomases," so called, because they were settled originally or came from families living about a pond in Old Middleborough. Others of the Pond Thomases were Captain Phinehas, Barzillai, and Andrew. Elias Thomas, who took up the farm now occupied by C. M. Perry, was of another set and not related.² David Thomas was the son of William Thomas, Jr., and was born in Middleborough in 1742. He married Deborah Howland for his first wife, in 1764, moved to Woodstock about the year 1787, and took up a hundred-acre lot in Apthorp West Tract. The first years of his residence in Woodstock were spent on this farm, and here his wife, Deborah, died on Tuesday, the 22d day of July, 1795, "of a lethargy," being forty-seven years old. For his second wife he married, in Middleborough, January, 1796, the widow of Daniel Thomas, brother to Elias, her maiden name being Mary Jakok. She was an English lady, and could exhort in meeting in a way few men could equal. As early as 1800 Captain Thomas took possession of the mill property, receiving a deed of it, including thirty-five acres of land, from William Burtch, in the fall of that year. He carried on the mill, occupying the old mill-house at first, but in the course of another year he built the house on the corner, where the roads meet, moving into it before it was finished, and, in fact, never finishing it. But so long as he occupied the house it was used by the Methodists as a place for holding meetings, and these gatherings even Hosea Ballou attended now and then, being allowed the privilege of speaking, "if he would wait till his turn came."

On the 4th of March, 1805, Captain Thomas sold the mill-privilege to Joseph Darling, Jr., and moved over on the Bailey farm. Darling lived in the old mill-house, and carried on the mill for many years, and raised a large family of children. In the mean time the house and lands on the corner became the property of Henry C. Denison, who, in addition to his other

¹ Levi Washburn stated that Burtch and Strong put a saw-mill on the south side of the brook, opposite their grist-mill. They also built the old house for the miller. The saw-mill Denison made

over into a fulling-mill, and the miller's house, after standing for many years, Mr. John Thompson tore down, and built the new one in place of it.

² Mrs. Hazen.



business, set up clothier's works at the south end of the dam, opposite the grist-mill. Mr. Denison was a man of thrift and industry, an influential citizen, took a prominent part in politics, and was judge of probate several years. In time he succeeded Darling as owner of the mill-privilege, and in 1849 built the stone mill. He died in 1853, and the property passed to Nahum Haskell, who made some improvements in and about it, and then disposed of the privilege to Mr. John Thompson, whose son, A. W. Thompson, now owns and occupies the place.

In 1854 Ovid Thompson purchased the Denison house and farm, and occupied it till his death, January 11, 1873.¹ In 1881, Mr. Billings, who had now come in possession of this property, tore down the old house and replaced it with a very handsome cottage, laid out the grounds, and put up barns and outbuildings in the most approved style. The common where the roads crossed he also laid out and inclosed.

About half way between this cottage and the bridge over the Branch, on the left hand side of the road, there formerly stood, out in the field, a one-story house, with a barn attached. This house was built in 1809, by Joseph Barrett, carpenter, brick-maker, and bridge-builder, who occupied it till 1812, when he sold the house-lot to Mr. Denison, and removed to Windsor. In 1881, when Mr. Billings was rebuilding the Thompson house, he made over this house and barn and a shed attached to the Thompson house to Frank Dana, giving him twenty-four hours to take the traps away. The work was safely accomplished within the given time. On the opposite side of the road stands the schoolhouse in District No. 3. No log schoolhouse, so far as can be ascertained, was ever built within the limits of this district, and the first teacher in the neighborhood was, perhaps, Miss Harriet Emmons, who kept school in her father's house, and had Levi Washburn for an occasional scholar, while he was bound out to Captain Strong. Mr. George Chedel states that, as he recollects, the people proposed to build a schoolhouse near the place where Levi Clapp then lived, just across the bridge this side of William D. Foster's house. The frame only was raised, as the people concluded a schoolhouse here would interfere too much with the school at English Mills, and there the building stopped. This was about seventy-five years ago. The

¹ For a sketch of Ovid Thompson, see *Vt. Standard*, Jan. 16, 1873.

school, however, was kept one or two winters in the shop or store building that once stood half way between the dam and Mr. Denison's house, and Amaziah Richmond was the teacher. Mr. Charles Marsh now came forward and gave to the district the use of the spot on the Fair Ground for school purposes, the frame by Levi Clapp's was brought down to this place, and a schoolhouse finished off. (July 16, 1885.)

This schoolhouse was built after the fashion of the times, desks arranged on opposite sides, and an alley in the middle. It served the purpose of the district till 1849, when it was thoroughly made over and modernized. In 1883 it was again repaired, and this time completely remodeled, mainly at the expense of Mr. Billings.

After crossing the bridge over the brook, on the right hand side of the road is the place formerly occupied by the Pratt brothers. These were four in number; namely, Cyrus, Samuel, James, and Thomas, famous in the local annals of the day, mighty men and men of valor, who always occupied a conspicuous place in wrestling-matches, barn-raising, sheep-shearings, fox-huntings, and the like, such as used to take place in this vicinity forty and fifty years ago. They have all passed away; Cyrus going first, then Thomas, then James, and, last, Samuel, the most famous of the four.

On the opposite side of the road, a little further up the hill, is the farm occupied and improved first by Charles Killam, Jr., who moved over into Woodstock from Hartland, about the year 1778. He was an extensive landholder in the town, and an enterprising man. Tradition does not speak of any log house set up here, but the barn on the premises was built in 1779, and the frame house a short time after. The sides of this house were constructed of hard-wood plank two and one half inches thick, fastened to the beams with heavy wrought nails. The planks were clapboarded on the outside, and lathed and plastered on the inside. The front of the house leaned out a little, and the planks were set up and lathed and plastered before this was discovered, and then all efforts to bring the side into perpendicular proved in vain. Some of the timbers about the roof were of pine, and were hewn as delicately as if the work had been done with a plane.¹ The house was painted red, and stood close by

¹ Job Richmond.

the road as it now runs, and its site can still be recognized. It was taken down by Job Richmond, in 1868, who built the new house on the premises.

Killam's first wife was the Widow Millie Weston, sister to Edmund Harvey, and a well-taught woman for the times. It is a little remarkable that her two husbands, Weston and Killam, were both drowned in the Connecticut while engaged in rafting. She died in November, 1781, and was buried at the corner of the Cushing cemetery where the roads meet. By her side John Killam, brother to Charles, was buried not long after, but no headstones were ever set up for either.¹ Not many months after the death of his first wife, Killam married Asenath Fuller. He came to his death in October, 1785,² in the following manner: In company with Solomon Emmons and a man by name of Doyle, he started a raft down the Connecticut, for Old Hartford. They reached Bellows Falls in safety. As yet neither dam nor locks had been built at this point, but rafts were accustomed to shoot the falls. In this case the men found they were going to be swept down the rapids with the raft. To save themselves, they leaped into the water — Killam and Doyle feet foremost, and Emmons head foremost, who thus escaped to tell the story, while the other two were drowned.³ Killam's body was borne by the current down the river as far as Old Hartford, where it was washed ashore, picked up, and buried.⁴

After Killam's death, a portion of the farm was carried on by his widow, Asenath, who, at length, was married to Joseph Barrett, Jr., of Windsor, the evening of the 25th of November, 1790. She died in March, 1809, and the farm was then divided among the children, John and Nathan receiving each a half share in the house, and Mr. Barrett moving across the Branch, on lands he owned there.

Soon after these events, the farm passed into the possession of Amaziah Richmond, Sr., who settled in Barnard in the year 1784. About the year 1799 Mr. Richmond met with an acci-

¹ Miss Mary Harvey, 1870.

² "Some time in October Charles Killam was drowned." (Rev. George Daman, in *Records Cong. Ch.*, under 1785.)

³ Dr. Lewis Emmons.

⁴ Killam, by his first wife, had three children, two of whom died as babes; the third, Charles, was born the 7th of

November, 1781. He had three children, also, by his second wife, viz.: John, born June 21, 1783; Nathan, born July 16, 1784; Seth, born about the time of Killam's death. He subscribed five pounds to the building of the first court-house, and this sum was collected, afterwards, of his estate.

dent, on which turned many changes in his life. This was the fracture of his left leg below the knee, while he was engaged in work at Lemuel Gibbs's house, and made necessary the amputation of the limb. Not long after, he began the business of marketing meat in this village, doing his butchering in Barnard. For a short time he had the market wholly to himself, but presently Nathaniel Waldron drove a meat-cart from Hartland Hill, and began to peddle meat some about the village. However, the sympathies of people were with Mr. Richmond, on account of his misfortune, and he received the most patronage. When the legislature met in Woodstock, in 1807, he opened a meat-shop in the village, and kept it running through the season. In those days the market was small which Mr. Richmond supplied, and usually he did not butcher more than one or two beeves each week; but the main trouble with the business was the distance from the market. To remedy this, under the advice of friends, he purchased the Killam farm, and took up his residence there in 1811. He died September 30, 1825, and in the notice of his death at the time, it was remarked of him that "he entered the Revolutionary army at the age of seventeen, and through our glorious struggle for independence was an ardent supporter of the rights of freemen, and after the achievement of our rights he was a firm supporter of our republican institutions. He was many years a beloved member of the Congregational Church, and to the great consolation and joy of his numerous Christian Brethren and Friends, he lived beloved and died 'the death of the righteous.'" After Captain Richmond's death the farm descended to his son, Job Richmond, who was succeeded by Charles H. Blossom, the present owner.¹

In 1789 the administrator of Charles Killam's estate sold to Elijah Bayley ninety acres from the easterly part of the original farm. Bayley at first built a log cabin back on the hill, where now are, or were till recently, the remnants of an old orchard. He afterwards put up a frame house, a few rods removed from the present brick house, and back of it. Bayley began, in 1783, with a large and splendid farm on Pleasant Street. This he sold to Captain Richardson, and moved over on the hillside. He re-

¹ In the summer of 1887 this farm and the old Pratt place opposite were purchased by Mr. Frederick Billings, and the houses on each place taken down.

tained the Killam farm till April, 1801, when he sold to Captain David Thomas. He then moved into a house of some sort that stood on the hill back of Benjamin Emmons's residence, and perhaps died there. The account-books at the stores throw some light on his history.¹

The sons of Captain Thomas, some of them, occupied the farm with their father till 1814. They then sold out to Stephen Paddock, and moved to Stowe. Stephen Paddock built the brick house now standing on the premises, resided on the farm for several years, then sold to John Greenleaf, in the fall of 1836, and moved to Fort Covington, in New York. Greenleaf conveyed the farm to his son Charles, in 1839, who, after two years, sold to Lyman Dutton, of Hartford. Dutton was an active, industrious farmer, but the West proved more attractive to him than a residence in Vermont, and in the spring of 1846 he disposed of his farm to Ira Moore, of Hartland, and took his departure for a better country, as he thought.

The next farm in order is the one taken up originally by John Sanderson, who has been spoken of already. Sanderson built a frame house a little below the log cabin he first put up, which was occupied till a few years ago, and was then taken down by Mr. Fitch. In the year 1838 the farm passed into possession of Woodward R. Fitch, and was carried on for some time by Mr. Fitch and his son Charles. In 1850 Charles G. Fitch built the present brick house, beginning the work the 1st day of April, and ending it in about six months. Twenty years later he put up the barn now standing easterly of the brick house, which cost him, in the way of labor, as much as it did to build his house. This, he thought, arose from the fact that when the house was built the day's work began in the morning; when the barn was built it began some time in the middle of the forenoon, and closed at six P. M., including the privilege of clipping at each end, and twice in the middle; pay, three dollars and a half a day and roast beef.

¹ Bayley had a daughter, Abigail, sick with consumption. Mrs. Hazen once related that she, as a child, used to take baskets of little comforts to this sick woman. She crossed the river by the ford at her father's house, then went up the road past Deacon Emmons's place, turned

to the right at the burying-ground, and going up the brook a little way, struck into a road which turned off to the right and led up the hill to the house where Bayley lived. The family were poor and destitute. Mrs. Hazen continued her visits till Abigail died, August, 1805.

The brick house commands a beautiful view of the surrounding country, and is one of the pleasantest situations in the town of Woodstock. The whole farm is a fine one, and under good management can be made to produce all a man needs for comfort and happiness in this life. Woodward R. Fitch, for some time the owner of this farm, came to Woodstock with his father in 1793. He took up the hatter's trade at first, as may be seen elsewhere, but at length, on account of his health, was obliged to give up this occupation, and in 1838 he settled upon this farm, where he continued to reside till his death, April 23, 1866.

Mr. Fitch for several years in the latter part of his life was an invalid, being much of the time confined to his house, and in consequence his intercourse with society was much restricted. In the period of his business activity he held a wide acquaintance among all classes of people, and was held in high respect and esteem by all. He was a man of careful observation and retentive memory, and was minutely acquainted with the history of this whole neighborhood. Anecdotes and various incidents, showing the customs and habits of the people and the progress of events from the early settlement of the town, he would relate in the most agreeable manner, and in the topography of this entire region few persons were so well versed as he. Mr. Fitch lived at peace with all men, and by his kindness and affable ways retained the good will and favor of all to the last.

Next below John Sanderson's was the farm of Joseph Darling, who came from Old Middleborough in 1773, and settled on this spot. His farm extended from the river to Pomfret south line, and embraced the land between Sanderson and Emmons. His first house, built of logs, stood on the hillside just above the cemetery, on the north side of the brook that comes down from Pomfret. He afterwards built a plank house on Sunnyside,¹ about half way between the brook and the plastered house built by his son John. He was a quiet man, held some offices in town, but did not mix much in public affairs. His wife was Huldah Thomas. She was received into the Congregational Church in the North Parish, the day it was founded, and remained steadily attached to its communion to the end. She died March 18, 1818,

¹ Sunnyside, a term first applied by Mr. Darling to that portion of his farm which lay on the south side of this brook from Pomfret; afterwards used in a much wider sense.



at the age of seventy-five. Joseph Darling died March 13, 1809, at the age of seventy-three.

John Darling, the oldest child of Joseph and Huldah Darling, was born in Old Middleborough in 1760; came to Woodstock with his father when he was thirteen years old. After the Revolutionary War broke out, Nathan Fletcher, who lived down the road a little below Benjamin Emmons's, was drafted into the army. He had a family, and did not wish to go, and John, then seventeen years old, offered to go as substitute, if Fletcher would let him have his equipments. This was agreed to, and John went down to No. 4, where he was mustered into service and continued in the army three years, or until the close of the war. Returned from the service to Woodstock, he presently took to wife Asenath Vaughan, daughter of Jabez Vaughan, of Pomfret. When, in 1780, the news of the burning of Royalton by the Indians spread through this valley, Asenath Vaughan was among the company of fugitives who came down the road from Pomfret on the way to Hartford. She stopped at the house of Benjamin Emmons, who at the time was away from home; but Mrs. Emmons, upon receiving the alarm, caught up her little children, carried them into the meadow, then thickly covered with trees, and stowed them away under some fallen logs and branches, concealing the hiding-place as carefully as possible. She at the same time placed some bread and cheese with the children, and giving them a whispered warning not to make any noise, for their lives, left them and returned to the house. With the help of Asenath she now collected such valuables as were in the house and hid them. After this, Mrs. Emmons was left to take care of herself, and Asenath made haste to join the company of fugitives on their way down the road to Burtch's mills. Here all hands stopped for the night; but soon report came that the Indians were on their retreat northward; the alarm was over, and the fugitives returned to their several homes.

The following tradition is so well authenticated that it should be preserved.

“WASHINGTON, D. C., 729 15th St., April 9, 1870.

“I have yours of the 6th, and in reply give you the account of Mrs. Darling's alarm from a party of Indians, as my brother, George P., related it to me some ten years ago, which was my first knowledge of it. It occurred upon what is still known

as the 'Darling place,' now forming part of Mr. Nathan Cushing's farm; and being an incident of some interest in the early history of the town, I am glad to have you preserve the memory of it.

"The narrative was, that as Mrs. Darling¹ was sitting at her window late on a moonlight evening about the time of the Indian raid upon Royalton in 1780, watching for the return of her husband, who had been absent on business some hours, she saw an Indian come out of the woods, and after carefully looking around in all directions, approach the house and seat himself on a rock near it, and there continue a vigilant lookout as if for the expected approach of some one. Mrs. Darling was nearly petrified with fear, and hardly dared to stir, lest she should attract the attention of the Indian, and bring speedy destruction upon herself and children. Her situation was most trying, as she was in constant expectation of her husband's return, and supposed the Indian to be also watching for him, and that his arrival would be the signal for an attack upon him and the family.

"How long she was kept in suspense she did not know, though to her it seemed an age. At length, however, another Indian appeared, and, after a consultation with the first, both disappeared in the forest. Shortly after their departure Mr. Darling returned unharmed and entirely ignorant of the danger he had escaped.

"As may be supposed, the appearance of these savages caused great alarm in the vicinity; and it was said that for some time afterward most of the settlers repaired at night to a camp which they formed upon 'the island,' as it was formerly called, which now forms a part of Mr. Cushing's meadow on the north side of the old channel of the river, thinking they would be safer and better able to defend themselves there together in case of a night attack than in their scattered houses, which could be attacked in detail.

"I mentioned this tradition respecting his parents² to Mr. Otis Darling, of Pomfret, some years ago, and was informed by him that it was substantially correct, and that he had frequently heard his mother relate the circumstances. The house, he said, stood near the brook which runs down the valley from near Mr. E. Bridge's, and not far above the graveyard near Mr. Cushing's. It was built, as all other houses in the vicinity then were, of logs, and placed with one of its ends against a bank, the common en-

¹ Mrs. Huldah Darling.

² Grandparents.

trance being in front on the ground floor, but for security and readiness of egress, in case of an attack from Indians, of which the early settlers were in almost constant dread, a door was made in the rear gable, opening on to the top of the bank, through which the family hoped to be able to escape to the woods, if the approach of an enemy should make it necessary.

“CHARLES MARSH.”

About the same time that John Darling was married, that is, in the year 1786, he purchased a tract of land on Hartland Hill, adjoining the farm of Deacon Samuel Dutton. Here he built a log house on the southerly side of the road, a little beyond the deacon's house, and on this place his first four children were born, namely, Lucy, Betsey, Otis, and John. In 1791, he moved to the opposite side of Quechee Valley and settled in Pomfret, on the Ware place, in School District No. 2. He remained here till the spring of 1816, when he moved down the brook to his father's old farm and settled on Sunnyside. The frame of the house in Pomfret he brought with him, and used the same in building the plastered house which is still standing on the place. Here Mr. Darling lived the rest of his days. He died September 25, 1831, at the age of seventy-one. His wife, Asenath, survived him till the 12th of February, 1854, when she died at the age of eighty-eight years. The Darling place at a later day became a part of Nathan Cushing's farm, and is now carried on by his son Nathan, who occupies the plastered house.

The farm next below the Darling place was taken up originally by Benjamin Emmons, who settled here in 1772, as is related elsewhere, and remained the occupant of the farm till his removal from Woodstock, about the year 1810. It then passed into the possession of Captain George Williamson, who came from Amherst, Mass., to this town, and kept tavern in the village for several years. After carrying on the farm for a while, Williamson leased it to Stephen Paddock and moved to Bangor, Me., where he died October, 1822, at the age of sixty-nine years. Under Paddock's management the farm ran down fast. In 1824 Nathan Cushing leased it for one year at one hundred and thirty-five dollars. Paddock croaked over this, and said Nathan never could live and pay such rent. He did, however, and bought the farm the next year, containing one hundred and three acres, by his

good management making the place pay for itself in eight years. He afterwards added to the farm extensively, till it came to be one of the largest and best in Windsor County. He died on this farm, in full harness, Monday morning, December 2, 1872, just a hundred years after it was first taken up. It is now carried on by Henry E. Vaughan.

The dwelling-house on this farm was built by Benjamin Emmons in 1780, or as soon as that. When Mr. Cushing bought the place, all the buildings on it were this dwelling-house and two barns, one above and the other below the road. Mr. Cushing twice thoroughly repaired and improved the house, and erected additional outbuildings, till the whole came to form a snug little hamlet by itself.

Some time not far from the year 1783, Nehemiah Curtis purchased of Benjamin Emmons two acres of land lying on Quechee River, a short distance below Emmons's farm. On this land he set up tan-works and built a dwelling-house. He carried on the tan-works about five years, and was then succeeded by Jabez King, who did a great amount of business in the tanning line at this place for many years, then sold out to Charles Dana, March 7, 1805. The tan-works ceased to be carried on here after Mr. King got through.¹

About the year 1800 Cyrus Hooper took possession of this place, and continued to reside here till his death, May 25, 1838. He was born in Bridgewater, Mass., April 18, 1770. When quite a young man he came to Woodstock in company with Gershom Cobb. He was a carpenter by trade, and in this new country he found plenty of employment. In 1792 he worked for Benjamin Swan, in building his new store and house on the Common, a hundred and thirty-seven days at four shillings a day, the price paid for a prime hand at that time. December 1, 1795, he married Mehitabel Murdock, who was born November 18, 1768. He first lived, after being married, in the same house with Gershom Cobb, but the next year he moved over into the old Hutchinson storehouse, still standing near the residence of Charles Hutchinson, in Pomfret. He next moved into a house then standing on the east side of the road, just south of the schoolhouse, near the Abner Barber place. His next and last

¹ This tan-yard, or rather these tan-works, were not under cover, but were out in the open field.

change of residence was to the place above described, just below the Emmons farm.¹

His wife, Mehitable, died September 9, 1827. They had five children, namely, William, Frances, James M., Charles, and Ase-nath B., of whom the last alone is living. The place now be-longs to Horace F. Sherwin, who tore down the old house in August, 1884.

Next below came the farm and residence of Nathan Fletcher, one of the first settlers in this town. He located here as early as 1775, and received a deed of the land from Asa Chedel, De-cember 2d of that year. The farm embraced one hundred and eighty acres, and lay chiefly in Pomfret, but the house was erected on that portion of the farm lying in Woodstock. Nathan Fletcher died September 1, 1813, at the age of seventy-three years. Elizabeth, his wife, died February 19, 1830, at the age of eighty-nine. The farm, that is, the homestead, descended to Nathan, the son, who died on the home place July 31, 1827, at the age of sixty years.

After Nathan Fletcher, 2d, died in 1827, Elder Hazen suc-ceeded to the occupancy of the farm, buying out all but the widow's interest. He carried on the place a few years, then sold out to Uriel Dutton, who bought the widow's interest also, and she moved away. Dutton was succeeded by Benjamin Pearsons, and Benjamin Pearsons by Horace F. Sherwin, the present owner and occupant of the farm.

¹ He received a deed of this place from the administrators of Nathan Fletcher's estate, June 6, 1828, being "a parcel of land lying between the highway and river, and is the same whereon the said Hooper

now lives and has heretofore had the oc-cupancy of it." He fitted up the base-ment of his house into a carpenter's shop, and converted the tan-yard into a garden.

CHAPTER VII.

FROM TAFTSVILLE TO SOUTH WOODSTOCK.

IN the northeast corner of Woodstock is situated the village of Taftsville. Stephen Taft was the first settler in this village. He came from Mendon, Mass., about the year 1793, and built a shop on the south side of the river, and a dam across the stream, and commenced the business of making axes, scythes, and other edge tools. On the 17th day of August, 1795, he began building a saw-mill at the opposite or north end of the dam, and had it in working order by November following. Daniel Taft, brother to Stephen, was born in Mendon, December 28, 1778. In 1794 he came to Woodstock as an apprentice to his brother Stephen in the scythe-making business. The following year he assisted at the building of the saw-mill, and worked in this mill most of the time for a twelvemonth. He presently began to think of working for himself, and, following out this thought, on the 15th of January, 1802, he hired of his brother two fires in the shop and the use of the trip-hammer two thirds of the time till the first of August following. His next step was to purchase in August, 1804, in company with his brother Seth, the shop and one third of the water-privilege for the sum of two hundred and sixty dollars, the two being equal owners in the property. The business was now carried on by the two brothers in company till 1811, when the shop took fire and was destroyed. Seth received a fatal hurt in the head at the fire, which caused lockjaw and death in about ten days.¹ Daniel now purchased the remainder of the water-privilege, rebuilt the shop, and resumed the business alone. From this date his business gradually increased, till in time it amounted to twenty thousand dollars a year. His scythes had the highest reputation and sold all over the country, and although other scythe-makers stepped in to compete with him, yet Taft's scythes always continued in the highest repute.

¹ Seth Taft's wife was named Lucy. namely, Reuben, Melinda, Lucy, and Beulah, all under the age of fourteen years. Seth was located within the limits of Hartland. He left four minor children, (*Probate Records*, vol. iv.)

After his sons were grown up they went into company with their father, and the business was continued and enlarged under the firm of D. Taft & Sons. In April, 1835, they purchased the stock and tools of Messrs. Granger & Swan, who recently carried on the furnace business at Woodstock Green, and set up a new furnace near the shop of D. Taft & Sons, and continued the business of casting ploughs, fire-frames, and stoves.

November 1, 1801, Daniel Taft married in Mendon, Mass., Miss Thankful Wilson, by whom he had three sons, Daniel, Owen, and Paschal P. She died April 19, 1815, aged thirty-one years. For his second wife Mr. Taft married, October 11, 1815, Miss Mary Samson, by whom he had one daughter, Loriette Maria. He died August 30, 1857.

Solomon Emmons, Sr., settled first in Windsor, in 1764. About four years later he came into Woodstock and located in Taftsville, on the spot afterwards owned by L. Putnam. It is now occupied by Benjamin Bugbee. His first house he built of logs, as no lumber was to be had in the neighborhood till after Stephen Taft put up the saw-mill in 1793. He had three sons, namely, Thomas, Solomon, and Abel. Solomon, Jr., married, at the age of twenty-two, Prudence Taft, sister to Daniel Taft, Sr. They had several children, namely, Sophia, a pair of twins named Solomon and Prudence, Laura, Harry, Seth, and Lewis, afterwards Dr. Lewis Emmons, who was of the same age as Daniel Taft, Jr. The road from Woodstock at that early day passed along the side hill fifty rods further south and west than the road now runs, and going above Harvey Vaughan's residence, where in old times was a log house, it came by the Solomon Emmons place, then swung round east above Paschal P. Taft's house, where is the cellar of still another ancient dwelling. Still keeping round east, there are the sites of two more log houses, where early settlers were established. After crossing Babcock's Brook, so called, there are found the ruins of an old log hut, occupied about the time Solomon Emmons came to Taftsville by a Mr. Blackmer, who moved in from Windsor. Solomon Emmons, Jr., built his house of sawed lumber in 1795. It stood on the river road, and is the place where Harry Emmons afterwards lived. All the children above named were born in this house. The brick house was erected in 1846, and is now occupied by Thales Winn Emmons, son of Harry.

Samuel Marsh settled on the river road about 1795. The place is now owned by Thomas M. Ryder. The next house is the mill-house, so called, the east side of the river, built by Elisha P. Perkins in 1817, now owned by B. D. Hathaway. Daniel Taft's house was built in 1805. This was only a frame dwelling at first, which was moved back in 1826 and the brick house put up, now occupied by Daniel Taft, Jr. Paschal P. Taft's house was built in 1834; still occupied by him. Owen Taft built his house in 1836; now occupied by Mrs. Marcy. David Hathaway's house was built in 1852. The house where Mr. Gillette lives was built by Frank Metcalf in 1876. The house where John Parkhurst lives was built in 1843 by Comings Martin. This was an old barn made over. The house now occupied by the widow Bean was built by I. B. Howes in 1836. William Strong's house was built by Comings Martin in 1839. Strong bought in 1873. The Blaisdell house, built in 1840 by Comings Martin, is now owned and occupied by George Cleveland. Barnes Gilbert built his house in 1846, and it is still occupied by his family. Harvey Vaughan's house was built by Zenas Adams in 1843. The Alfred Whitney house was built in 1844 by Clark Stockwell. The house now occupied by E. C. Emmons was built by Solomon Emmons, the third in descent, in 1854. Levi D. Hall's house was built by D. Taft & Sons in 1848; now occupied by Frank Young. The house where Hiram Spaulding now lives was built in 1842 by Mr. Gilbert. The next is a house built of brick by Lemuel Holt in 1841; passed through several hands, and is now owned by Mrs. Barrett. The next above is Olive Moore's house, built in 1852 by D. Taft & Sons. The next house, built of brick, was erected by D. Taft & Sons in 1840 for Joseph Weed. His wife was the daughter of Abel Emmons, third son of the original Solomon Emmons, and this house stands about twenty rods east of the said Solomon's original log house. The Joseph Bigelow house was built by Eben Martin, who lived and died there. It is now owned by Clark Newton.

The next is the Earl Vaughan house, built by D. Taft & Sons in 1833, and occupied by the Vaughans down to the present time. The house where Homer Darling now lives was built by D. Taft & Sons in 1840. Charles G. Darling's house was built by D. Taft & Sons in 1837, and is now owned and occupied by Frank D. Metcalf. The next house was built by Daniel W. Bigelow in 1865, and is still occupied by him.

C. W. Seaver's house was built by Chester Collins in 1867. The site was once in Hartland, but it is now in Woodstock. The house built by Seth Taft about 1796 stood on the hill some fifty rods above the present road. Daniel Taft, Jr., was born in this house, and in after times Solomon Emmons occupied it till he built the house where Edwin C. Emmons now lives. This house has been torn down.

Taftsville is embraced in School District No. 7. The first schoolhouse in this neighborhood, so far as there is now any recollection, was a frame building, which stood on the westerly side of the road leading up the valley, and a little distance above the river road. It was burnt in 1811. Uriel Dutton was then keeping the school, which had still two weeks to keep when the accident occurred. The schoolhouse was rebuilt of brick on the same site, and continued to be used about thirty years, when it was taken down. These two schoolhouses were each arranged after the usual fashion of the day, with desks on opposite sides of the room and an alley between.

Daniel Taft, Jr., took the job of putting up the third schoolhouse, at the same time changing its site to the present location. The building is very conveniently arranged for the ends and purposes for which it was designed. It has two school-rooms on the first floor, and is equipped with a belfry, in which is a good-sized bell. When first put up, it stood within the limits of Hartland, but in 1851 a small section of that town was set off to Woodstock in the adjustment of boundary lines between the two towns, and the section so set off included this schoolhouse.

Taftsville has a post-office, which was first established in or about the year 1839, and Dexter Bates was the first postmaster. The second was Daniel Taft, who held the office from January, 1849, to January, 1852. From that time to 1856, the office was held by Owen Taft. Curtis Cady succeeded Owen Taft, holding the office till 1869, when L. J. M. Marcy was appointed, continuing postmaster till 1875. Daniel Smith was appointed the sixth postmaster, and has acted as such since the cars began to run on the Woodstock railroad, October, 1875. He is postmaster still.

The post-office was located at first within the limits of Hartland; but the portion of Hartland set off to Woodstock at this

point in 1851, included the land on which the post-office building was situated, and it is now, therefore, within the limits of Woodstock.¹

On the top of Hartland Hill, about a mile above the village of Woodstock, is a spot called Beaver Meadow, known by that name since the earliest settlement of this town. From the northerly side of this meadow flows a brook which passes down the valley to Taftsville, and then finds its way into the Quechee. The valley drained by this brook still retains some of the wildness of the primitive forest, and on a pleasant summer's day, for a drive or walk, is one of the most charming spots about here. It goes by the name of Happy Valley, though when and by whom the name was first applied to it is a matter of uncertainty. The first person to settle in the valley was Josiah Clark, who had a farm of two hundred acres here, bounded on the north by the Governor's lot, and on the east by Hartland town line. He built his first log cabin on the eastern slope of the valley, at the edge of the woods, near the line which separates the Harvey farm from the one lately occupied by Orson Perkins. This cabin he gave up to Edmund Harvey in April, 1783, and moved into a new one a little higher up the hill.² Besides farming it for a living, he was neighborhood shoemaker.

Clark remained in the valley till 1791, when he disposed of the homestead to Elisha West, and moved somewhere else. Poverty and rheumatism seem to have been his close companions during the latter part of his life. He is credited in the town records with a family of thirteen children by his wife, Jerusha Burt. The oldest of these, Freeman by name, was born the 12th day of January, 1774. This Freeman Clark and another resident of the valley, named Josiah Hurlburt, were among the fifty insurgents who about the 16th of November, 1786, assembled at Captain Lull's, in Hartland, for the purpose of rescuing Robert Morrison. This Morrison had been sentenced by the court at Windsor for heading a riot against the court on the 31st of October previous.

The chief occupation of Elisha West, the next after Clark to

¹ Paschal P. Taft.

² This second log cabin seems never to have been occupied after Clark left it. Right up through the chimney of this hut an elm-tree started, perhaps ninety years ago. This tree has grown to be a splen-

did specimen of the forest, standing a hundred feet high, and rising fifty feet or more without a branch, and then the top spreads out like an umbrella. (D. G. Spaulding.)

occupy this farm, was to compose music and teach singing-schools, as is related elsewhere. His family, like himself, were all singers. During the manifold trials that disturbed West's life in the last few years of his residence in Woodstock, he appears to have so managed his affairs that in the judgment of the civil authority of the town he came within the description, true intent and meaning of Section 14 of the Act providing for the Poor, then in force among the laws of this State. Thereupon such proceedings were taken in the case that some time in June, 1808, a guardian was appointed over this "chief of singers," who proved to be no other than the solid and stable Jabez Bennett, as conspicuous for his unmusical voice as for his shining virtues. In the inventory of effects belonging to West, which was returned to the Town Clerk's office for record, is one interesting item, namely: "Seven books on music at \$3.50." It is pleasant and proper to add that the guardianship over this excellent teacher of the divine art of music did not continue long. Isaac Tribou, who succeeded West on the farm in Happy Valley, came from Old Middleborough. He was a shoemaker by trade, and lived and died on this farm, and then Elias Thomas became its owner.

Another early settler in Happy Valley was Adam Turner, who bought a farm of fifty acres on the east side of the brook, cornering on Edmund Harvey's farm. He was born about the year 1763; came from Templeton, Mass., to Windsor, before he was twenty-one, and hired out on service. In Windsor he made the acquaintance of Betsey Lull, to whom he was married in Josiah Clark's house one Monday morning in the month of November, 1784. His farm of fifty acres he had already purchased, on which he now settled, and continued to occupy it for several years. December, 1800, he was appointed deputy sheriff by William Rice, but got into trouble, and removed to the State of New York in 1802, where he died.

Next above Josiah Clark's place came the farm and residence of Edmund Harvey, who was born in Attleborough, Mass., 1757, where he spent his boyhood. On the breaking out of the Revolutionary War, he enlisted in a company under the command of Captain Goldsmith, and served through a portion of the war. Having finished his period of service in the army, he came with his father's family to Hartland, whence he found his way into Woodstock about 1781. In the early part of 1782, he married

in Bridgewater, Mass., Mary Harvey, his second cousin, and the next year, in the month of February, started for Woodstock with family and stores. On his way he left baggage and stores at No. 4, and pushed forward with wife and child to Cornish, where he put up at Chase's tavern. After being weather-bound here a few days, taking the ferry-boat the 5th day of March, they succeeded in crossing the river safely. Wife and child now pushed forward to Hartland and put up at the house of Mr. Luce, while Mr. Harvey returned to No. 4 for baggage and stores. It took him between four and five weeks to get through and back to Cornish again. No need of ferry-boat now. Such had been the severity of the weather during his trip to No. 4 and back that Connecticut River, though in high flood, and though it was now the second week in April, was frozen over solid, so that he crossed it with his loaded teams on the ice. He then pushed on through Hartland, picked up wife and child by the way, and reached and camped down on his own farm just six weeks after the first crossing of the river at Cornish. The farm consisted of twenty-five acres of land purchased of Josiah Clark, not a rod of which was cleared as yet, and the snow was still plentiful and deep, though it was past the middle of April. Harvey occupied at first the log hut Clark had vacated, but after two years he built a better one twenty-five or thirty rods further down the road. This log house had two large rooms on the ground floor, in which the family ate and slept and performed all their domestic labors, including spinning and weaving, making butter and cheese, and preparing fowls for market.¹ In the summer of 1795, Mr. Harvey put up a frame house about fifteen rods further down the road. This building, after standing many years, was taken down by George W. Harvey, in August, 1878.

On the 29th of April, 1807, Mr. Harvey went with his son Nathan over to Mr. Burtch's store in Hartford, to settle an account. On his return in the afternoon, he attempted to cross the river above Taft's dam in a canoe. The river was high from a spring flood, the current proved too strong for the rowers, and the boat was swept over the dam. The young man escaped, but Mr. Harvey was carried down the stream and drowned.²

¹ Miss Mary Harvey.

² Fortunately the latter (the son, about twenty years of age), after being carried down the falls for some distance, was preserved by means of some flood wood from

receiving any material injury. Edmund Harvey's body was accidentally found on Tuesday, May 12th, following, near the mouth of Quechee River. (Spooner's *Vt. Journal*, May 18, 1807.)

After the death of Edmund Harvey the farm continued in possession of the family, and is still occupied by George W. Harvey, grandson of the above. Southeast of the Harvey place lies a farm recently owned and occupied by Henry B. Reed. This farm was once a part of the large estate purchased by Israel Richardson, when he first settled in Woodstock. From Richardson it passed to Elisha West, from him to Allen & Dana, then to Elias Thomas. John Bement owned it next, who married Silvia, daughter of Mr. Thomas. The farm remained in possession of the Bement family upwards of fifty years.

A little distance above the Bement farm stands, on the left side of the road, a house now deserted. Here, some forty-five or fifty years ago, Samuel White settled. White was an ingenious mechanic, and especially skillful in carving woodwork. Just above the house he built a dam across the brook so as to secure a water power, by means of which he drove the machinery in a workshop attached to the rear of the house, having an upper room and a room in the basement. A garden was laid out below the house, which was terraced and partly covered with fruit-trees. Through this the brook flowed, and in Mr. White's day the place, all about, wore the appearance of thrift, neatness, and care. After he left it, however, things soon went to decay and ruin. A little above Mr. White's, on the road to Hartland, comes the farm occupied by Thomas E. Putney, and a short distance beyond is Balston Cottage, established by Mrs. Francis some twenty-five years ago as one of her places of abode in this town.

On the 7th day of July, 1779, Abigail Luce, "wife to Adonijah Luce of Hertford in the County of Cumberland and State of New York (*alias* Vermont) Spinster," deeded to John Hurlburt, of Mason, county of Hillsborough, N. H., Lot No. 184, one hundred acres in the township of Woodstock. Hurlburt's wife's name was Philippa Emerson, sister to Betsey, wife of James Emerson, Sr. His family was quite large when he came to Woodstock, and it increased after he got here. He settled on the easterly slope of Happy Valley, which overlooked Beaver Meadow. The old road passed along the side of this slope, near the foot, and then crossed the brook at the head of the valley. The house which Hurlburt built and occupied stood above the road, a little up the slope. By the edge of the

meadow, at the foot of the slope, can still be seen a clump of bushes and briars where the spring was, from which Hurlburt drew his supply of water for family uses. On the left of the house, a little lower down the hill, stood the barn. All about was spread a thrifty orchard. Hurlburt had no other business in hand besides his farm, and this he managed well. He was one of the founders of the Congregational Church in this place, of which his wife also was member. They both, it is understood, maintained a good character in their profession. Hurlburt himself was of a cheerful, social disposition, disposed to be chatty, generally quite well behaved, and was respected by all, and was certainly careful about getting into debt.¹ He died July 4, 1811, his wife some years after, and both are buried in the cemetery by Mr. Cushing's. No headstones indicate their graves.

After the Hurlburts got through with this house and the farm, the house was occupied by William Gallup, brother to Dr. Joseph A. Gallup. When he died it was used for some years as a place of religious worship, and meetings were held in it by the Methodists. A preacher by the name of John Smith, a cheery, wide-awake man, who went by the name of Happy John, held forth here for several seasons. At length the house was torn down, and the barn on the premises removed by Mr. Latimer to his farm.

The first person to take up the farm at Beaver Meadow was Abraham Powers. But in 1778 he disposed of the place to Samuel Dutton, of Woodbury, Conn., who appears to have settled in this town that year. Dutton was a carpenter and house-joiner by trade, and a diligent farmer besides. He built a house on the farm, which was used afterwards for a back wing to the house now standing on the premises.

Mr. Dutton was twice married, and raised a large family. His oldest child, Olive, was born the 19th day of August, 1761, and his fourteenth child, Asa, was baptized by Mr. Daman, February 15, 1789. He occupied the farm till the spring of 1796, when he sold to Jesse and Roger Williams, as described in the deed, "the farm on which I now live adjoining land of John Hurlburt and land of Israel Richardson, Jr., and Benj. Sanderson's land

¹ Occasionally some of the more capacious sort tried to find fault with him because he was such a cheerful man, but such folks found no countenance with the better sort. To be sure, it was sometimes

whispered, it was no credit to Hurlburt, if he did walk orderly; for he lived next-door neighbor to Deacon Dutton, and that was enough to keep any man straight. (Miss Mary Harvey.)

and on the South a part of the farm of James Herwood so called," one hundred and twenty acres in all, embracing the land he had bought of Abijah Lamphire, Oliver Willard, and Abraham Powers, and soon after this moved away from Woodstock.

The farm, while owned by Jesse Williams, was rented from time to time by different persons, but about 1812 was occupied by Henry B. Brown. As Mr. Brown's family was of a social turn, and included several accomplished ladies among its members, his house became an attractive spot to many of the young people in the village. In those days one of the visitors at this house was Mr. Norman Williams, who found here for a wife the estimable lady to whom he was married in November, 1817.

After Mr. Brown left the farm it was occupied by Plutarch Houghton, who finally gave up the place and went West. In recent times it has been owned and occupied by the excellent Deacon Boyden.

The house on the top of the hill coming up from Deacon Boyden's place stood formerly on the west side of the road, near the house where Jason L. Darling now lives. It was built, it is supposed, by Dorphin Dennis, who was married to Mary Rogers, December, 1814, and took up his residence here about the same time. After a while Mr. Dennis moved the house across the road, and here his son, Horace T., was born. In the spring of 1848 Mr. Dennis removed the house to its present site, and occupied it till his death. The place is now in possession of Mr. Wood.

The first house on the road that turns off here and goes towards Hartland was built by Alonzo D. Washburn some fifty years ago, on a tract of eighty-one acres given to him by his father, Simeon Washburn. Alonzo, after occupying the farm a few years, removed to another spot, and the place now belongs to Mr. Hadley.

Adjoining Washburn's farm on the west was in early times the farm and residence of Benjamin Sanderson, already mentioned. He had a son, Beriah, born in Leicester, Mass., 1767, who came to be enrolled in due time in the ninth company of militia in this town. On a certain celebration-day, when the company were paraded on the Common to fire thirteen salutes in honor of the thirteen original States of the Union, Beriah loaded his gun with bullets. But, as the bullets began to whistle over the heads

of the people, anxious inquiries arose as to the source from which they came, and being traced to Beriah, the captain informed him the State had no further occasion for his services in the military line, whereupon Beriah took up his gun and departed. Thirty rods to the northeast of Benjamin Sanderson's house stood the residence of our old acquaintance, Timothy Knox, directly on the Knox ledge, so called from that fact. The house was a poor affair; the ground served for a floor, whereon also the kitchen fire was kindled, while the smoke escaped either by the chimney or in some other way.

Returning to the Hartland road, next beyond Alonzo D. Washburn's place lived in former times Thomas West, who came from Stonington, Conn. He married Esther, sister to Billy Gray, and resided on a large tract of land he purchased of Andrew Powers. As a part consideration for the purchase of the land he was to support our venerable patriarch and his wife for the remainder of their lives, but this part of the contract was not carried out. In 1812 he sold eighty-five acres of this land to John Hammond, who two years later conveyed a half interest in the same to Dorphin Dennis. The house in which West lived has been torn down.¹

We come next to a modern house, put up by Horace T. Dennis in 1876. It is now occupied by Jason L. Darling. Beyond the Dennis place comes the farm which was taken up and occupied by Seth Darling about the year 1796. Part of his farm was in Hartland, and the town line passed between the dwelling-house and barn on the premises. The first house was a log structure, and stood within the limits of Hartland. In this the first four children were born. Afterwards he built the house now standing on the Darling place, within the limits of Woodstock. A small portion of the old log affair was a frame building, and was brought across the line and made a part of the new house. Mr.

¹ It is remarkable to observe in what a lively manner wives, eighty years ago, sometimes posted their husbands, where family jars arose. In the *Vermont Journal*, August 1, 1811, one Hannah ——— complained against her husband, Thomas ———, setting forth that the said Thomas had eloped without just cause, while she was visiting her friends in Weatherfield and Cavendish; had carried off all her

cloth and all the yarn she had spinned, and all the flax, wool, and provisions raised on the farm the last year, and put his farm, horses, and cows out of his hands, on purpose to deprive her and her children of a home; all on account of an ugly, mischief-making, evil-minded woman he had taken into the house, contrary to the said Hannah's wishes, with other words of similar import following.

Darling carried on the farm many years, and died here Sunday morning, March 27, 1825. Retiring to rest at night, apparently in good health, in the morning he was found dead in his bed, having passed away so quietly not even his wife was awaked, who was sleeping by his side. He was succeeded in the occupancy of the farm by his son, Jason Darling, a good farmer, attentive to his business, and an upright man. During the administration of the son many improvements were made on the farm, and the limits considerably extended. Also the barn was moved across Hartland line, that all the buildings might be in Woodstock. He died February 7, 1864, and the farm is now owned and occupied by Elisha S. Gallup.

Another early settler on this road, neighbor to Thomas West and Seth Darling, was Asahel Doubleday. He was born in Hartford, Conn., April 11, 1751; at the age of fourteen began his apprenticeship at the weaver's trade, and served his seven years. In 1777 he entered the service under General Gates, and was present at the battle of Saratoga and at General Burgoyne's surrender. At the close of the war he came to Woodstock to live. Here he married Betsey, sister to Billy Gray, and settled first on land lying to the west of C. Richardson's farm, where he built a log house. This was in 1783. Five years later he purchased, on Hartland Hill, twenty acres of land adjoining Deacon Dutton's farm, and extending twenty rods on Hartland town line. He settled on this land, and, in 1791, added to it twenty-one acres purchased of Thomas West, who married his wife's sister. He now had a good farm, and devoted himself to it, and what with farming and weaving made a good living. He had no children of his own, but about the year 1800 he adopted a child named Pliny Baker, who, on the 7th day of November, 1822, when he became of age, had his name changed to Pliny Enos Day.¹ To this Pliny Mr. Doubleday gave his property, which proved to be a most unfortunate affair for both parties, certainly for Mr. Doubleday, and was the end of him. His wife died October 1, 1821. In 1824 he went to live in the family of Simeon Dunham, where he received most kindly treatment and was esteemed by all. He died February 24, 1843. Mr. Doubleday's father had twenty-five children, — thirteen by his first wife, seven by his second, and five by his third. Asahel was the second child by the second wife.

¹ Pliny's story is told by Chauncey Richardson, in the *Vt. Standard* for Feb. 18, 1869.

Next south of the Seth Darling place, following the road, came the farm and residence of Israel Taylor Houghton, who seems to have settled on this place about the year 1793. But Houghton was living in the town earlier than that; some of the time on North Branch and elsewhere. After his death the farm passed to his son, Cyrenus, who carried it on for some years, then sold to Jason L. Darling, and moved a little further down the road, on the Bingham farm. The place is now held by Charles Darling, brother to Jason L.

James Harwood, whose farm adjoined Deacon Dutton's on the south, moved into Woodstock, from Hartland, as already stated, in the year 1769. He bought and sold large tracts of land in the town, as did many other of the early settlers. His farm embraced Baylies' Hill and land round about, where now is the farm of George Brewster.¹ Here he continued to live to the day of his death. His wife's name was Eunice Brooks. Their oldest child, Eunice, was born April 5, 1760. Betsey was born January 20, 1766; Electa, in March, 1775. He had also three sons, — Theron, Abijah, and Abner. Theron died young, and was buried on the home farm. Abijah also died young, and was buried in the yard laid out on the high bank of the Quechee, near the mouth of South Branch. Abner wandered away, and never was heard of afterwards.

Harwood, in the latter part of his life, became incapable of taking care of himself, and in 1804 Samuel Winslow and Paul Brewster were appointed by the Probate Court his guardians. He had mostly disposed of his landed estate previous to this, but still retained sixty-six acres of the home farm. This land the guardians sold in January, 1805, to Nicholas Baylies, Esq., embracing what is now called Baylies' Hill, whence the name. That same month Harwood died. His wife, Eunice, survived him till about the year 1814.

A part of the farm originally owned by James Harwood he sold to John M. Call, who married his daughter. Call occupied the place till 1798, when he sold to Clothier Pryor, and bought of Ebed M. Burk the farm in recent times carried on by E. C.

¹ Harwood received from Oliver Willard, the 13th day of April, in the ninth year of his majesty's reign, A. D. 1769, a deed of Lot No. 25, drawn by John Grout, by virtue of his name being entered in the

charter of the township of Woodstock granted by New Hampshire, but now being in the Province of New York and County of Cumberland. Also Lot No. 154.

Pelton. Here he resided till his death, in 1814. His widow survived him for several years, and died in 1832.

John M. Call, when fifteen years old, enlisted in the Revolutionary army, and remained in service about nine years, or till 1784. He was one of the soldiers in the army who had the rare privilege of a personal acquaintance with General Washington. By those who knew him he was esteemed as a man of good natural abilities and well trained in the business affairs of life. He was a good accountant and an excellent draughtsman, and had quite a gift for solving difficult mathematical problems. He was early chosen clerk of the school district in which he lived, and retained this place to the end.

On Hartland Hill was the farm where James Sanderson finally settled, after he gave up his roving life. Having moved into the town and located, as is described elsewhere, he seems to have remained here till 1774. Our fathers, even at that early day, were troubled with swine running at large, and resorted to various expedients to remedy this evil. One of the first offices established in the town was the appointment of some person to look after the swine. Such person was variously designated hog-driver, hogrief, hog-committee, hog-hayward. The year above named James must have been present at the annual meeting held for the election of town officers, the 17th of May, and he and his brother John were chosen "hog-drivers." But as James was of a roving disposition, and the office of "hog-driver" was not sufficiently attractive to keep him here, that year he left Woodstock and went to Hartford; from there found his way, in due time, to Lancaster, Coos County, N. H., where his daughter Sally was born, September 20, 1775. That in no very long time after he got back once more to Woodstock is reasonably sure, as he was present, it may be said, at the annual March meeting, 1778, and was again chosen one of the "hogriefts." At this same meeting a vote was passed that the fee for pounding be one shilling, and that "Hogriefts or other persons that pound cattle or hogs shall proceed to get their fee or Damage as the law directs in the State of New Hampshire."

William Powers, whose sister James Sanderson had married, and on whose land James had thus far squatted, or lived as tenant, left Woodstock this same year, 1778, and moved to Hartford. Thither James must have followed him soon after, and in that

town lived a year or two, where his son Asa was born, July 2, 1780. Hitherto Sanderson had been a wanderer, unsettled in life; but now he was to become a land-owner, and so get fixed somewhere. While staying in Hartford this time he purchased, September 16, 1780, a hundred-acre lot, No. 187, in the township of Woodstock, the same lot Andrew Powers, father of William, bought of Oliver Willard in 1768. This land he occupied till 1784, then purchased of Moses Evans part of Lot 185, a little further up the road, and here he became established and fixed for the rest of his life. After this event there were no more wanderings or changes for James Sanderson, and on this farm he died the 6th day of November, 1794.

Benjamin Sanderson, second son of James, after his marriage settled on the home farm, which under his management was extended and enlarged to three hundred acres. He was a forehanded farmer, and after spending a long and useful life, died the 29th day of March, 1846. His wife, Polly, died September 24, 1852, aged eighty-two years. After the death of Mr. Sanderson the farm in part was divided between his sons-in-law, John W. Carey and Henry Morgan, two excellent farmers and worthy men.

Simeon Dunham took up a farm southerly of the Sandersons, on a branch road running up the hill a short distance. He was born in Carver, Mass., April 6, 1745. His wife's name was Lydia Shaw, who was born February 28, 1751. They moved from Middleborough, Mass., to this town in 1788, and stopped with Dr. Lysander Richardson till the next spring. Then they moved to the Billy Gray farm; then to Asahel Hoisington's house in the south part of the town; then to land now owned by Ward C. Richardson; all which moves took place in the year 1789.¹ In the spring of 1780, Mr. Dunham settled on the farm lying easterly of the schoolhouse in District No. 14, which proved to be his home farm, and there he spent the remainder of his days, dying May 20, 1820. His wife, Lydia, died in Pomfret the 9th day of August, 1822. After his death the farm passed to his son Simeon, who was succeeded by his son, Simeon C. Dunham.

As we are now in School District No. 14, a few words in description of the same may not be out of place. The district is quite large, and is agreeably diversified with hill and valley. The

¹ C. Richardson.

South Branch flows through it, and numerous small streams descend the hillsides as tributaries to this main stream. The Sanderson spring is in this district, celebrated for its pure and wholesome water. It is on the farm formerly owned by Benjamin Sanderson, 2d, and lately in part by our excellent friend, Henry Morgan, now deceased. The road from the Green extending up the branch to South Village was laid out about the year 1787. This road is intersected at three different points by roads descending from Hartland Hill, one of which coming in at Mr. Kenyon's leads up to the old Harwood farm, recently occupied by George Brewster. On this road lived Charles Carlisle, famous so many years in this vicinity for his bachelor life and his culture of the strawberry. The main road over Hartland Hill comes in at the schoolhouse and Dutton's mill. The third intersects at Chauncey Richardson's. At the extremity of this branch road, and near the east line of the town, lived Captain Elisha Lord, who was born in Lyme, Conn., in 1763, and moved to Woodstock in 1788. He purchased of Jonathan Grout a hundred acres of land at this point, extending along the said east line a hundred and ninety-four rods. His next-door neighbor northerly was Simeon Dunham, and he had Nathan Avery on the south. He attended to his business as a farmer steadily, and lived and died here. After his death the farm descended to his son, Albert Elisha, who occupied it till his death, February 25, 1873.

Some of the settlers on the branch road that intersected at the mill-site have been mentioned already. One of the earliest of these was Ebenezer Dike, who occupied a hundred-acre lot adjoining the Sanderson farm on the west, a deed of which he received from David Slayton, June 6, 1774. Dike made some additions to his farm, and sold off some portions. From the southeast corner of his land he sold four acres to Francis Hendrick in the fall of 1795, probably for a house-lot, as Hendrick was a resident of this district for some years. In 1802, he disposed of a large portion of his farm, embracing a hundred and thirty-seven acres in all, to Hatsel Pelton, of Chatham, Conn., who settled in this district that year, and some of his descendants still remain in the same neighborhood. In 1805, Dike sold another portion of his farm to Arnold Smith, some sixty acres in all, adjoining Benjamin Howard, Simeon Dunham, and Hatsel Pelton, and that was about the end of him in Woodstock. He never took much

part in town affairs, and the family, though once quite numerous here, seems to have wholly disappeared from this place.

Arnold Smith was born in Lyme, Conn., February 7, 1778. In 1795 his parents, Richard and Lois Smith, with a family of eight children, moved from Lyme to North Bridgewater, Vt., taking an ox team with them, which was about the sum of their worldly possessions. They lived there a short time, then bought a farm in the westerly part of Woodstock, near English Mills, where they lived till well advanced in life. The parents were cared for in their old age by their youngest son, Elias, who succeeded his father, Richard, in the occupancy of the "Smith farm," and was succeeded in turn by his own son, William Henry, the present occupant of the same. Arnold Smith was a steady, industrious man. When twenty-one years of age, he hired out to Mrs. Sarah Avery, who then occupied a small farm adjoining and northerly of the one in recent times owned by Cyrus Perkins and son. The agreement between the two was that Smith should care for Mrs. Avery through life and then receive the property. In 1802 they sold their farm and bought another of Sally Perry in New Boston School District, and then, in 1805, they took the Dike farm. Mr. Smith enlarged his domain till it embraced two hundred and fifty acres, with fifty corners on it, and having a circuit of five and a half miles, following the lines of survey of the several pieces which composed the whole farm. He lived here till his death in 1839, when his son Oliver succeeded him, taking one hundred and fifty acres of the paternal farm, which he carried on for nineteen years. During this time he made various improvements on the place, including a new house put up. His health now failing, he sold out to Ward C. Richardson, the present occupant, a prudent, industrious farmer. Mr. Richardson has still further improved the place, and has arranged the outbuildings so as to secure greater conveniences for doing his work. The Dike barn, so called, which stood in the south lot, he has brought across the road, so that it now stands with the other buildings. He has also brought water from a never-failing spring in this south lot, and now has a plentiful supply of the same at his door. He has occupied the farm now going on twenty-seven years.

The first settler in District No. 14, on the road running up the Branch from the Green, was Ephraim Brewster, a descendant of the well-known Elder Brewster who came over in the May-

flower. In the spring of 1775 he came up to this town from Preston, Conn., and purchased some three hundred acres of land extending along the South Branch, and including all the meadow land on both sides of the brook, from Elder Sterlin's north line to the big rock near Harvey Dutton's stone house. He spent the summer in clearing the land and building a house. This first house was made of logs, and located on the hillside up above the meadow. The frame house, which was constructed of hardwood plank, was erected a few years later. The next spring, being the spring of 1776, he moved his family up from Connecticut, driving a four-ox team with supplies, while his wife kept company on horseback, carrying the two children in her arms.

Mr. Brewster proved a valuable addition to the new settlement. He was a good farmer and careful man of business; ready to assist in every improvement, and to do his part in conducting public affairs. He was born in 1731, which brought him on the stage of action in season to serve during the last French and Indian war. When Royalton was burnt in 1780 by the Indians, Mr. Brewster, having had experience with this kind of foe, was ready at once to turn out in defense of the settlement and assist in beating back the savages. In or about the year 1787, in connection with Lieutenant Richard Ransom, he laid out the road along the South Branch from the Green through to Reading. Previous to this the travel had been by the great highway which led up the present Church Hill, and so on to the South Parish.

Mr. Brewster, by his good management, was able to leave a comfortable estate for the support of his wife and family when he died. He passed away May 10, 1810, at the age of seventy-nine. His wife, Margery, was the daughter of Paul Parks, of Preston, Conn. When, about the year 1744, the sect of the Separatists began to appear in Connecticut, one of their churches was organized in Preston. In this church Parks was ordained an elder, and was charged at his ordination not to premeditate what he should say in his preaching, but to speak as the Spirit should give him utterance. Yet the Separatists allowed that, while the knowledge of the tongues and liberal sciences is not absolutely necessary, it is convenient, and like to be profitable if rightly used.

Margery Brewster died in February, 1841, at the advanced

age of ninety-eight years and two months. At the time of her decease she had been an inhabitant of the town sixty-five years, and had lived to see the fourth generation of her descendants come upon the stage of action, and the fifth born into the world.

Mr. Brewster had three sons and three daughters. Polly married Seth Sterlin; Paul married Rachel Stiles, enlisted in the service during the War of 1812, and was out two years, being discharged in 1815; Sally married William Bramble; Seth married Dolly Green, of Woodstock, the 14th day of November, 1799; Ephraim married Augusta Crafts, sister of Governor Crafts; studied medicine, was appointed surgeon in the army at the opening of the War of 1812, and some time during the first year of the war was accidentally drowned in Lake Champlain. He left one son, who also studied medicine, and was established as a physician in Craftsbury. Margery married Benjamin Stiles, of Woodstock, the 25th of February, 1802.

Another early settler in the town, who may be mentioned in this connection, was Joseph Sterlin. He came from Lyme, Conn., in 1781, and in company with Jabez Cottle built a grist-mill and saw-mill in the South Parish, on land belonging to Cottle. In the spring of the next year he received from Cottle a deed of one half of a tract commonly called and known by the name of the "Mill Spot," also a house spot adjoining the same, "together with one half of the saw-mill and one half of the grist-mill now standing on the premises." This same season he moved his family up from Lyme, then consisting of four sons and three daughters. Sterlin was a blacksmith by trade, and possessed great inventive genius. He was a skillful workman besides. He contrived many useful tools for the neighboring mechanics, and in 1806 invented the first machine used for paring apples. Such, indeed, was his mastery in these matters, that when the neighboring mechanics had a piece of work in hand they did not know how to do, the word was, "Call on Uncle Jo, he will do it for you."¹

Joseph Sterlin died September 17, 1814; his wife, Lydia, November 20, 1805.

Seth Sterlin, eldest son of Joseph, at the age of sixteen, was drafted for six months' service in the Revolutionary War. He

¹ C. Richardson.

went to New London, and assisted in finishing the forts and barracks, and in mounting the guns. In 1782 he came with his father to Woodstock. In 1788 he began working at his trade of blacksmith, which he learned under his father, setting up a shop on ground afterwards occupied by Dr. Buckman. In 1791 he was appointed quartermaster-sergeant by Colonel Jesse Safford, in the Third Regiment, Third Brigade, Vermont militia. In 1793 he broke up from the old stand in the South Village, and moved into School District No. 14, a short distance above Mr. Brewster's place, where he followed his trade as blacksmith, and devoted part of his time to farming. At his trade he showed himself inventive and skillful, like his father.

But Seth Sterlin was now about to make a great change in his course of life. Not far from the year 1804 he had become a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church in this town, and at Barnard, May 17, 1807, he was ordained a deacon in that church by Francis Asbury, bishop.¹ He preached in the society for a number of years, as occasion presented, but becoming dissatisfied with the mode of government of the Methodist Episcopal Church, he withdrew, and uniting with the Methodist Reformed Church, he was ordained elder in that church the 4th day of February, 1815. In 1833 his name was placed on the pension-roll, and thereafter he received a yearly pension of twenty dollars so long as he lived. He died the 27th of April, 1846, and it was remarked of him at the time that for nearly fifty years he had been engaged in the ministry as a preacher of the gospel, and in this character few had been called upon to administer its consolations to the afflicted more frequently than he.

After the death of Seth Sterlin the home farm continued with his son William (born January 19, 1799, died February 5, 1867), and upon the decease of William it was divided between his two sons, Seth F. and John.

Another resident of the district, living on this road, was John Hayes, who came from Lyme, Conn., and settled on a farm of thirty acres, situated about three miles from the Green. He married Miss Azubah Roland, was a saddler by trade, and a very good workman. He died April 1, 1813, probably of the camp fever then raging in this town, and his wife followed him on the 7th of the same month.

¹ *Town Records*, vol. i., page 144.

On this same road, about three miles from the court-house, is situated the farm of Chauncey Richardson. This farm was taken up originally by Captain Nathaniel Killam, brother to Charles, about the year 1784. The land was then all a dense forest. Captain Killam built a house of some kind to live in, also a saw-mill, in 1785, just above the bridge, the first one within the limits of this district. He occupied the farm till 1796, then conveyed it to Joseph Perry, and removed to Barre. From Barre he went to Irasburgh, in this State, and died there.

Joseph Perry sold the farm to Ezekiel Fitz in 1798, Fitz to Dr. Lysander Richardson in 1799, who occupied it in May, 1800, moving from King's Flat. After the decease of Dr. Richardson, in 1813, the farm, then containing fifty acres, became the property of his eldest son Chauncey. It now embraces one hundred and twenty acres.

The house on this farm was raised, clapboarded, and shingled by Joseph Perry about the time he bought the place. Perry built with the expectation of setting up a tavern here, but before the house was finished he gave up the enterprise, and sold out to Fitz. Some further improvements on the house were made by Fitz, but he in turn soon gave up the affair, and disposed of the property to Dr. Richardson.

In 1798 Captain Ebed M. Burk set up a tannery a few rods east of the saw-mill. He carried this on for a few years, then sold out and moved to South Woodstock. Burk's tannery seems to have been the only one ever established in this district.

About half a mile below the saw-mill, on the ground where now stands, or did stand recently, the barn of Reuben Douglass, was once a distillery in full operation. It was carried on some of the time by Samuel Taft, and the principal liquor made was cider brandy. Perhaps it was at this mill that Benjamin Sanderson, 2d, purchased, one season, his supply of liquor to carry him through haying time. He bought thirteen barrels of cider brandy, and stored them in his cellar. During the working-days all hands drank freely, and when Sunday came the house was filled with people, like a regular tavern. The general work of the week being then suspended, there was a little less sobriety than on other days of the week, because every man took a double portion of the precious fluid to relieve the dullness of the day. Before the haying-season was ended the cider brandy gave out,

and Mr. Sanderson was obliged to go down to the Green and get a half-barrel of gin to carry him through.¹

Towards the close of the year 1799 Colonel Phineas Thomas, in connection with Jabez Bennett, bought of Stephen Drew a parcel of land lying on the South Branch, near a barn owned by John M. Call, being part of the farm previously owned by Eben Kingsley. Three years later they put up a saw-mill on this place, but Bennett sold out his share of the farm and property to Thomas in October, 1803. Thomas carried on the farm and saw-mill alone for a few years, then sold to John M. and Isaiah Call. About the year 1828 Arnold Smith bought one half of the saw-mill place, and here, in connection with Isaiah Call, manufactured lumber and brick for some years. In 1836 he disposed of his interest in the saw-mill to his son Oliver, who managed the business till after the death of his father in 1839. He then sold to Mr. Scott, who ran the mill a short time, and then sold to Mr. Jaquith, and Jaquith to Ira Dutton. Mr. Dutton took possession of the place in the spring of 1857, and has retained it down to the present time.

The first schoolhouse in this district was a log house built about the year 1797, some forty rods west of the spot where the schoolhouse stands to-day. When the district was organized, the question arose among the inhabitants, "What name shall we give the district?" It was decided to call it "New Boston." This was because so many poor and destitute families lived here. Near the centre of the district were some eight or ten families within gunshot of each other, all very poor. This spot was called the capital of New Boston. Those families all sold out to Arnold Smith about the year 1805, and moved north. The last building left within the limits of the city was a barn that had stood alone for many years. In the fall of 1860 "the wind took it, and it went by the board." In 1804 Mr. Ransom, of South Woodstock, sent his two hired men with a heavy team, to break up some sward land for Mr. H[oward]. Mr. Ransom, knowing Mr. H.'s destitute condition, sent dinner to his men. The men fed the oxen, and sat down to their dinner when the hour came. After they had done Mr. H. came up, and Mr. B[illy Brown], one of the men, said to him: "Come, Mr. H., take some dinner

¹ Chauncey Richardson states that they began making potato-whiskey at this distillery about 1810.

with us ; there 's enough for us all ; beef, pork, sauce, and plenty of it left." Mr. H. said he wished his poor wife had some of it. " We have not had any meat in the house for a long time." " Well," said Mr. B., " carry it home ; we shall not want any more of it." Mr. H. sat down and tasted the food, and his appetite was so strong it overpowered him, and he forgot his poor wife, and never stopped till he had eaten everything up. Such was the state of things in the city of New Boston.¹

June 26, 1802, Jonathan Wait deeded to the inhabitants of New Boston School District twelve rods of land for a schoolhouse. On this land the first framed schoolhouse in the district was built in 1803. The old log building which had served the purpose of a schoolhouse for some years Wait converted into a blacksmith-shop. In the course of two years this shop took fire one day, while Wait was at work, from a spark which caught in some bundles of flax overhead, and the establishment was consumed, with a loss of about five dollars.

In the winter of 1812 the schoolhouse took fire from a crack in the chimney, and was consumed, books and all. No new building was put up to supply its place till 1815, when the present brick schoolhouse was erected. This, in 1867, was repaired and much improved by Ira Dutton, who took the job.

Jonathan Kingsley, Jr., taught the school in the winter of 1803-4 ; Celinda Dexter, the summer following ; Mayhew Safford, in the winter of 1805 ; Lucy Sterlin, the next summer ; John Hayes, Jr., in the winter of 1806 ; and then for five winters in succession the school was taught by Billy Kingsley ; in 1812, by Seth Allen. In the winter of 1813, after the schoolhouse was burnt, Charles Fullerton taught in Jonathan Wait's house. For the winter of 1814 Miss Sarepta Emmons taught a part of the district, in the widow Call's house, and a Miss Palmer the other part, in the widow Hatsel Pelton's house. The first school in the new brick schoolhouse, winter of 1815-16, was under charge of Miss Sarepta Emmons, and she taught the following summer. The average attendance at the winter school in those days was about seventy.

¹ Chauncey Richardson.

CHAPTER VIII.

SOUTH WOODSTOCK.

It is generally considered that the Cottles were the first persons to settle in what is now the village of South Woodstock. About the year 1779 Jabez and Warren Cottle put up a grist-mill near the brick store of Gustavus Lake. This mill continued in operation a few years, and was then converted into a fulling-mill and clothier's works. These works were carried on by the Cottles, Jabez, Jr., and John Arnold. Employed in connection with them in some way was a person by the name of George Betterly, who, in August, 1792, gave public notice that he had in his hands several pieces of cloth which he was obliged to carry with him from Claremont, where they were dressed, to Woodstock in Vermont, near Captain Cottle's. The owners were desired to call for their cloth and pay for the dressing. In 1794 he gave notice that the accounts which Jabez and Warren Cottle¹ had in their hands were now in his for settlement, and all persons having demands against the company he was ready to pay according to contract. In June, 1796, he removed from Woodstock to Reading.

After Jabez Cottle, Jr., died, his brother John Arnold carried on the clothing-works alone for some time. About the year 1812 Abraham P. Mather took Mr. Arnold Cottle's clothing-works and carried on the business of dressing cloth, and likewise in June, 1816, set up a carding-machine with a new picker. Finally the mills were sold to Oliver Bailey, who set up a clover-mill, but this did not pay, and he put up a carding-machine. Not long after this James Slayton put up a saw-mill here and worked it a few years. When Lake became the owner of the property, the dam in due time was removed. The pond formed by this dam was very spacious, reaching up nearly to Ira Kendall's place, and being half a mile wide in some parts. In the

¹ Jabez and Warren Cottle gave notice, August 27, 1792, that they had lately furnished a new building, etc., in order for carrying on the clothier's business, with approved workmen and dyestuff of all kinds. (*Spooner's Vt. Journal.*)

winter season it was the great skating-ground for the whole neighborhood. The meadow which was covered by it, embracing twenty acres or more, is now the property of Captain John McKenzie.

In 1781 Jabez Cottle, in connection with Joseph Sterlin, built a grist-mill lower down the brook, where the present mill stands. About twenty-four years later another grist-mill was erected on the same ground by Jabez Cottle and John Waldron. This mill performed duty for several years, till at length James Slayton built a new one in its place. Afterwards Warren Powers bought the mill property, and it remains in his possession at the present time.

Warren Cottle was the first trader in the South Parish. When he began his business, he kept a few goods in a sort of closet, not much bigger than a peddler's pack. By degrees he enlarged his business and his premises, and took Amasa Ransom into partnership, and the two built their first store where is now the house formerly occupied by Oliver Kendall. When Richard Ransom, Jr., came to own this store, in due time he moved it across the road and placed it in the back corner of his new store, and used it for a back building. This old store is still in existence, or was till recently. The firm of Ransom & Cottle were doing business as early as 1795. The credit system was at its height in those days, and the public notices to delinquent debtors to pay up were numberless, and sometimes quite original in style. Ransom & Cottle put out one after the following terms: "The old tune 'I will thresh next week' will no longer answer for lawful currency. Pay up." In fact our fathers, in the line of public notices, indulged in singular eccentricities at times. Here are two specimens among many such that might be exhibited: —

"O Yes! O Yes! Joseph Ackley, of Reading! Joseph Ackley, of Reading! settle with ensign David Burnham or Benjamin Cady in my behalf according to agreement, or I will sue you before the County Court for damage. Remember my horse in your custody was never delivered nor never will be till you settle as aforesaid. The horse you sent me to Cavendish was prized at nine shillings, which was pretty well, seeing he had but three legs.

AMOS TAYLOR.

"WHITINGHAM Jan. 2, 1796." ¹

¹ Spooner's *Vt. Journal*, January 28, 1796.

"PARTNERSHIP DISSOLVED.

"Whereas John my husband has acted in a very unbecoming manner for some years past, we have therefore by agreement dissolved our partnership. These are to desire all people to be cautious of trusting him on my account, for I shall not pay his debts as usual ; for after five years severe service, I have given him the one half the small property I carried with me to him to have the other free from debts.

"I'd rather live a single life
Than pay his debts and be his wife ;
For I am weak and full of fear,
And debts grow heavier every year.

"RICHMOND June 18, 1798.

POLLY HALLOCK." ¹

The concern of Ransom & Cottle failed up in 1798, and Warren Cottle removed to Missouri. February 17, 1796, Field & Perry opened a store in the South Parish, a few rods east of the meeting-house. They kept and sold most kinds of European and West India goods, and flourished for a season, but the concern, most likely, was short-lived. A more important establishment of this class was the store of Richard Ransom, Jr. It opened about the year 1792, did a large and prosperous business, and Mr. Ransom may be counted one among the few successful merchants who have lived in this town. His stock embraced every variety of merchandise kept in a country store, profits were large, and the whole neighborhood were his customers.

It is interesting to observe the variety and cost of drinks at this store. The favorite beverage was *sling*, so called, a drink composed of equal parts of spirits and water sweetened : gin, the liquor commonly used, but brandy almost as often, and the quantity one gill, as a rule. A glass of rum cost 3*d.* ; a glass of brandy 4½*d.*, equal to six and a quarter cents ; a gin sling cost 7*d.*, and a brandy sling 9*d.* For brandy and biscuit a man paid one shilling. If you looked into the store the 27th day of March, 1796, plenty of customers were there, and every man took a drink. Captain William Ellis enjoyed his two glasses of brandy sling, Jabez Hammond his two drinks of brandy, David Mack his one glass of the same. Thirst is perennial in the human family, and this thing continued every day. March 29th Bial Farns-

¹ Spooner's *Vt. Journal*, July 24, 1798.

worth bought his pint of rum for one shilling and four pence, and paid a shilling for a card of gingerbread, while Noah Winslow took only a pennyworth, about one finger's width, from another card. And so the appetite ran among the good people. Nathan Avery took his glass of brandy and half card of gingerbread, dropped a ninepence on the counter, and still remained in debt for his entertainment. In those times a man's wages were from fifty cents to seventy-five cents a day, and it did not take many drinks to sweep the day's earnings all off. Yet these drinks of gin sling, brandy sling, brandy smashes, rum toddy, etc., taken at the stores, shops, and shanties about the town, wherever goods of any description were sold at retail, embraced but a small portion of the precious beverage the fathers were accustomed to drink. Benjamin Sanderson, Arnold Smith, Daniel Ransom, Jabez Cottle, Amos Ralph, Jonathan Farnsworth, Isaac Kendall, in fact almost every well-to-do farmer in the neighborhood, had a cider-mill, and made cider by the scores and hundreds of barrels. Amos Ralph built a vat of immense proportions, as big as a good-sized room. This he put into his cellar first, and stored cider in it, to be made over into brandy. Then he carried it to the distillery, and used to put into it thirty barrels a day, to be converted into cider brandy. He commonly made six hundred barrels of this fluid in a season.

After the death of Richard Ransom, in September, 1811, the business was carried on by his son Richard, and the concern continued in operation for a long period. The firm of Green & Perkins was doing business in the South Village in the early years of this century, but dissolved partnership December 27, 1808, and Elisha Perkins went on alone at the same stand.

Among the early settlers in this town almost every third man kept a blacksmith-shop. David Bailey was among the first to establish one in this section. The 6th day of February, 1800, his shop took fire and was consumed. He rebuilt, and continued the business till 1809, when, in company with Oliver Bailey, he set up a trip-hammer in the village, and did a flourishing business in this line. Another busy man at the same trade at the same time was Richard Smith, who agreed to shoe horses for "one dollar each in cash," but not oxen.

It has been said that Ezra Sylvester, who came to Woodstock

in 1797, was the first cabinet-maker in the town. However that may be, the cabinet business was established in town as early as 1798. Some time previous to that year a company, organized in Charlestown, N. H., to carry on cabinet-works, had set up a branch concern in Woodstock, of which Micah Brown had charge. In June, 1798, this company dissolved, and the business was continued here by said Brown. But the trade must have been already started in the south part. Late in the year 1799, Elijah Harlow gave public notice that he made and sold at his shop in the South Parish all kinds of cabinet-work, and that he also made chairs, including dining-chairs as a specialty. His shop continued in active operation several years. Then Edward R. Hayes and David Mack, Jr., formed a partnership in this business, which was dissolved November 23, 1809. Cabinet and chair making, and also the manufacture of sleighs and cutters, was continued at the old stand by Edward R. Hayes, while David Mack, Jr., went on with the carpenter's and joiner's business in its various branches. Hayes died in 1813 (?), and the same year Mack took his shop and stock in trade and went on with the cabinet business. When his house was burnt in February, 1817, he lost with the house and outbuildings all his grain, a large quantity of boards, timber, etc., for cabinet-work, and some furniture. In the summer of 1811, Richard Sterlin set up in the cabinet business also. He offered for sale a large stock of cabinet-work of every kind, including chairs, clock-cases, and clocks, which he wished to dispose of at very reduced prices. In exchange he was willing to take Vermont bills at par, which was allowing to his customers a truly liberal discount.

Likewise saddles, harnesses, etc., were manufactured at a shop in the South Village, by Benjamin Cottle and Henry Lake in company. They dissolved partnership March 9, 1813, and the business was continued at the old stand by Henry Lake.

At the same period of time Gaius Perkins was carrying on the tanning, currying, boot and shoe making business, on a large scale. He took the tanning business and the shoemaker's trade from his father, Captain William Perkins, who moved from Hartland to South Woodstock in 1801. Elisha, brother to Gaius, followed the same trade, but as early as 1803 he turned his attention to store and tavern keeping, and gave up the tanning business to his brother Gaius.

In 1811, on the 5th day of September, Caleb Kendall opened a jeweler's shop in the South Village. He kept on hand most kinds of watch-materials, performed both silver and brass work and engraving, and cleansed and repaired clocks. Finished watches were cleansed and warranted one year for fifty cents. "Personal and unremitting attention given to business a few rods from the south meeting-house." And so every branch of industry came to be represented in this village, and it grew in wealth and numbers. It is interesting furthermore to consider the class of men who conducted these several branches of trade. On the poorest showing, they had at least some solidity of character to furnish a guaranty for the quality of their work. As years rolled on and these men passed away and things changed generally, so also, under the benign influences of advanced thought and high culture, which have spread into even these retired valleys, our wool has come to be unwashed, and our leather, that once rested in the vats seven years, is now tanned in twenty-four hours.

As the village had its industries within its own sphere, so also it had its literary associations, established and maintained by a goodly circle of promising young men, who seventy years ago were here preparing to enter upon the stage of action. Among these was the "Literary Fraternity," established in 1815, which met Saturday evenings at the village schoolhouse, from September to May. The exercises consisted of declamations, disputations, etc., and a public exhibition was held once a year in the month of April. Among the members of this fraternity were E. Farnsworth, J. V. C. Smith, C. B. L. Delano, and Henry C. Hammond, who all came in time to make a figure in the world, and others besides, who might be mentioned. One of the most promising of all the young men who were ever members of the fraternity was Frederic M. Ransom. Young Ransom fitted for college in the North Village, as the Green was sometimes called, where he became a great favorite with all who knew him. Entering Dartmouth College, he there took a high stand as a scholar, and was much esteemed by all; but on account of failing health he was obliged to leave college during his last year and returned home, but died after a few weeks' illness.¹

The first person to move in establishing a library in the south

¹ Chauncey Richardson, who was a 3d day of April, 1815, and closed December 26, 1835. member of the Literary Fraternity, informs us that it began its existence the

part was James Slayton. In the winter of 1796-97, in connection with John Simonds, then teaching school in District No. 17, he took the matter up, and called the attention of the inhabitants to the importance of having a public library in the neighborhood. As the people on Slayton Hill were few who might be able and willing to favor an undertaking of this kind, these two persons came to the South Village and went from house to house, soliciting aid for their enterprise. By perseverance they succeeded in getting a sufficient number to join them in the work to insure its success. The first meeting of the proprietors was held at South Woodstock, January 26, 1797, at which time a society was organized under the title of the "Woodstock Social Library," with Jabez Cottle, president, John Simonds, secretary, and Sylvester Edson, censor.

In the summer of 1828, a new mail-route was established from Woodstock Village to intersect with the Charleston and Albany mails at Springfield in this State. It was to run three times a week, passing through South Woodstock, Reading, and Perkinsville. New post-offices were established at South Woodstock and Perkinsville, and the mail began running Monday morning, August 11, 1828. Richard Mather Ransom was appointed the postmaster at South Woodstock, and Joseph Kidder at Perkinsville.¹

When Ransom was elected the following fall a member of the Legislature, finding he could not represent the town and at the same time hold office under the general government, he wrote the Postmaster-General, requesting him to appoint Richard Ransom in his place. This request was complied with, and Richard became second postmaster at South Woodstock. This was the Richard Ransom who built the store and tavern at the South Village, uncle to Chauncey Richardson. He continued postmaster till his death in 1836, when Oliver Bailey received the appointment and held the office a few years. Next after Oliver Bailey came Gustavus Lake. At the death of Mr. Lake his widow was appointed to take his place, and held the office a brief time only. Amos Washburn was the next postmaster, retaining the place a few years. Then came Henry Wilkins, who, after a short tenure of office, resigned. A lively contest now arose, among the parties interested, as to who should be Wilkins' successor; but at length

¹ *Woodstock Observer*, August 12, 1828.

Richard H. Kingsley obtained the appointment, and still retains the office.

The first post-office was kept in Richard Ransom's store on the hill, near by the Kendall place. Afterwards it was moved down on the flat into Ransom's new building. Oliver Bailey removed it to his own store, and in that spot it remained through all changes till Wilkins obtained the office, who moved it down to the old Ransom stand again, where he had set up a grocery-store. When Kingsley was appointed postmaster he moved the office back to the Bailey store building, where it now remains.

The first schoolhouse in District No. 15 was, no doubt, a log building; but just where it was located cannot be said. It is understood, however, that the schoolhouse has always stood on about the same site. It would seem that as early as the year 1789 in place of the log building was erected a frame schoolhouse, which came to be used for a variety of purposes. In the warning for the annual March meeting, 1790, the fifth article was this: "To see if the town will vote to hold the town meetings in future, half at the court house, the other half at the schoolhouse near Esquire Cottle's mills." This building, as described by persons who have attended school in it, was a low, wooden structure, with the benches arranged on opposite sides of the room, one side set apart for the boys, the other for the girls. After having served the purposes of the district for some years, it took fire one day and was burnt.¹

In the winter of 1809-10 James Cutler kept the school in this district. He was brother to Amos Cutler, the shoemaker, who lived in the North Village. He was a promising young man, and a person of some prominence in this vicinity for several years. Having decided to take up the law for a profession, he was approbated as a student in Mr. Marsh's office the 22d of March, 1808, and admitted as a clerk there on the five years' establishment. For some reason he did not complete his professional studies under Mr. Marsh, and at a bar meeting holden at Taylor's hotel during the September term of court, 1811, he was admitted a student in Mr. Hutchinson's office, his time to be computed from the time he left Mr. Marsh's office. His stay, how-

¹ A later schoolhouse than the one put up in 1789 may be intended in the above description.

ever, with Mr. Hutchinson was short, for at a meeting of the bar held just one year after the date above given, Mr. Hutchinson suggested to the assembled members of the bar that James Cutler ceased to be a student in his office on the 1st of December, 1811.

To James Cutler, indeed, the law clearly had no solid attractions, and henceforth he appears to have given up further pursuit of it. His mind ran in other directions, and, being a flaming Democrat, he was interested to attend political gatherings and public celebrations, where he made speeches suited to the occasion, or delivered toasts overflowing with patriotism.¹ But music, both instrumental and vocal, had the principal charm for him. Among other efforts in this department he organized a sort of volunteer band, embracing some half-dozen members, being about the first movement of the kind in town. The instruments were composed of one or two clarionets, one or two bass viols, one bass drum made of tin, in shape long and small round, and a bassoon played by Charles Bowen, clerk for Samuel Chandler. They played round about the village, serenaded nights, and made some music for the multitude, but of rather rough character. Amos Cutler, who had, himself, considerable musical taste, styled the performance of the band rather foolish business. The part Cutler acted as a teacher of singing-schools and leader of choirs is described elsewhere; but in addition to this he was a famous teacher in the public schools. He was strict in government, and he had the rare faculty of getting a great deal of work out of his scholars. For two winters he kept the school in the South Village, and among other rules he had this one: that the scholars must be all in their seats at the hour appointed for opening the school. They had no bell in those days, yet, punctual to the time, he made his appearance at the door, took off his hat, and bowed politely to the assembled scholars,

¹ In valor for the cause he espoused Cutler was not a whit behind R. Barnwell Rhett, of heroic memory. We recall a toast given by the latter at a Fourth of July celebration, 1850, in Laurens, or thereabouts, in South Carolina, when the disunion spirit began first to rise high. "Federal threats and Federal guns: The former we despise; the latter, if pointed at us, we will charge and take." A young Charlestonian declared to me, in sober

earnest, that same season, as we sat at dinner in one of the hotels in the city, that, in the event of a fight, the navy of South Carolina would prove more than a match for the navy of the United States.

"Now as for going to South Carolina to fight such chaps as these, I'd sooner let nullification go to grass and eat mullein." (Major Jack Downing to his Cousin Ephraim, January 4, 1833.)

who rose to receive him. In connection with the day school, which numbered about ninety scholars, he set up a "speaking-school" for such of his pupils as were disposed to come in, and with these he met once a week for rehearsal. This speaking-school grew by degrees to great proportions, and drew in a host of young people, culminating, at the close of the winter, in a grand exhibition. This was held in the meeting-house; began in the forenoon, and kept up all day. After supper they went at it again, and never finished till after midnight. All hands called it the grandest performance of the kind ever held in the South part.

Besides this day school, Cutler kept at the same time two singing-schools, each for two evenings in the week; one at the South Village and one in the North. He was always behind in paying his bills, and consequently, on one of the evenings he was holding this latter school, the sheriff walked into the room, and, arresting the unlucky teacher of the "divine art," marched off with him. All concluded the exercises were over for that night, but presently Cutler returned, as serene and dignified as if nothing had happened, and, taking up the exercises where they were broken off, finished his school. After pursuing his career in Woodstock a few years, Cutler removed to the State of New York.¹

In 1825² a two-story brick schoolhouse was erected for the benefit of the district. A belfry was constructed for this schoolhouse, in which was hung a bell weighing between three and four hundred pounds. So large a bell was provided for the reason that there was no other one then in the village. Besides being used for the daily school, it was rung on all occasions when there was any gathering of a public nature, including Sunday services in the church. After the Institute was established, this bell was removed to the Academy, where it still continues to do service. The schoolhouse, in consequence, was without a bell for some time, but finally the district obtained the one that used to hang in the belfry of the old brick schoolhouse on the Green, and still keeps it in use.³

¹ Those who knew James Cutler while he lived in this town never had any question as to his superior abilities; but, as Mr. Richardson once remarked: "The trouble with James was, the machinery

would run first rate for a while, but lacked a *regulator*."

² Mr. Rood.

³ Among all the graduates at the "brick schoolhouse on the Green," there

ought to be some one of sufficient poetic abilities to celebrate in fitting manner the charms of that old bell, profanely styled, in schoolboy days, "that potash-kittle." What alumnus of the institution, after roughing it a little in the

world, can hear it to-day without recalling and applying the familiar lines in the *National Reader* concerning the "Bells of Limerick : " —

"How many a tale their music tells
Of youth, and home, and native clime."

CHAPTER IX.

SOUTH WOODSTOCK (CONTINUED).

THE road that leads from South Village over the hill to Hartland passes through School District No. 17. The first person to settle in this section of the town was Daniel Ralph. He came from Woodstock, Conn., and took up the southeast corner lot in the township, on which he settled with his family, embracing wife and two sons, in the fall of 1775. He was a successful farmer, a prudent and an industrious man, and lived on this farm till his death March 2, 1826, at the age of seventy-nine years.¹ His wife, Priscilla, died July 30, 1825, aged seventy-two years. She was a woman of great physical courage, who did not fear to encounter the wild beasts that hovered around the yards and sheep-pens adjoining her house; and in such encounters they did not get the better of her. Yet she was also a kind-hearted and charitable woman, ready to visit the sick and poor among her neighbors, and minister to their wants.

Daniel Ralph was an honest man in all his dealings. He was a deacon in the Baptist Church established in that part of the town where he lived, and very strict in his religious notions, not favoring any change in the simple and plain methods of conducting religious worship which prevailed among the early Baptists, or any movement that looked like a compromise with the spirit of this world. He was in general opposed to the introduction of musical instruments into the church, to assist in the services. The singing, he thought, should be conducted without these unspiritual helps. With regard to the bass-viol, he remarked that

¹ Amos Ralph, one of Daniel's sons, succeeded his father in the ownership of the farm, and lived and died there. Another son, Jonathan, moved across the line into Reading, and took up a farm near by, on which he lived and died. Amos Ralph was succeeded by Henry Walker, who occupied the old farm about six years, then sold out to his son Henry W., the present occupant, an industrious farmer and an enterprising man. Mr. Walker, the son, who married Jonathan Ralph's daughter, has purchased Jonathan's home farm, and now carries on that in connection with his other farm. (June 7, 1886.)

the harp on which David played was an instrument of ten strings, and the viol, therefore, if used in church, should have the same number of strings. More than this, the viol ought never to be admitted into the sanctuary in its ordinary shape of a fiddle, because to the carnal mind the sight of the fiddle could suggest only thoughts of ball-rooms and dances. Equally strict in his religious notions was Lieutenant Richard Ransom, of revered memory, who in like manner exercised no forbearance toward the midnight ball or those who attended such mixed assemblies. Once a granddaughter of his had arranged to go to one of these dances at Jason Richardson's hotel on the Green, and was already on the way. Lieutenant Ransom, learning the fact, pursued after her, and even invaded the ball-room itself, fully resolved to take away the culprit by force, if necessary; but some of the young people, getting wind of the affair beforehand, secreted the damsel beyond his reach.¹

Another first settler in the same neighborhood was Samuel Slayton, born in Brookfield, Mass., September 24, 1751. He came to Woodstock in 1780, and took up a hundred-acre lot on Slayton Hill, as in time it came to be called, not far from Daniel Ralph. He added to his original purchase till his farm embraced five hundred and ten acres. He put up a log cabin to begin with, cleared and cultivated his land, and began preparing a home for himself. He then proceeded to get a wife, and found one in Hannah Stowe, of Walpole, N. H., to whom he was married January 1, 1781. In 1788 he left the log cabin and built a suitable dwelling-house, in which he reared a large family of sons and daughters. These he lived to see grown up and in good circumstances in life. He died at the homestead August 10, 1830. His wife died April 2, 1813.

Joshua Slayton settled in the same neighborhood with Samuel, on Lot No. 1 in the second range of Apthorp South Tract, receiving a deed of the lot in March, 1782. He died about the 1st of January, 1786, and his widow carried on the farm after his death, adding to her landed property in 1787 by the purchase of the westerly part of Lot No. 1 in the third range, which adjoined the homestead on the north.

¹ Were the lieutenant alive and operating in these latter days, he would not have the privilege of starting on such a journey, perhaps not the wish to do a thing so opposed to the notions about such matters prevailing at the present time.

David Slayton, another member of the Slayton family, while living in New Rutland, Mass., made his first purchase of lands in this township in the month of September, 1773. He settled on Slayton Hill a little earlier, probably, than Samuel,¹ and brought up a large family.

Abraham Kendall came to Woodstock in 1779 and purchased Lot No. 2 in the third range, Apthorp tract, northerly of the land occupied by the Slaytons, and near Hartland line. On this lot he put up a log hut, cleared and planted a piece of land, and when autumn came, having gathered in his harvest, returned to his home in Dunstable, Mass., where he spent the winter. The next year he returned with his wife and worldly effects, and took up his residence on the land he had cleared and cultivated the previous year. His entire outfit for housekeeping he could carry on his back, and with such a scanty supply of the conveniences for living, this worthy couple set up a home in the wilderness.² Honest and faithful industry, however, soon caused rich crops of grass and grain to take the place of the forest, and these brought ample means to the workman and a plentiful supply of this world's goods. Mr. Kendall lived on this farm for sixty years and raised a large family. He was a deacon in the Baptist Church, a man of integrity and sound judgment, and greatly esteemed and respected by all. He was active and efficient in town affairs, so far as he was called on to do public service, and would sometimes speak in meeting, as the following familiar incident shows. Upon occasion of town meeting one year, when the selectmen and civil authority were about to retire to make nomination for grand and petit jurors, Mr. Kendall rose, and, addressing the meeting, remarked that he had now come to be an old man, and it might be permitted him to say a word. He had noticed that the authority were in the habit of nominating themselves for jurymen. He had no wish to interfere in the customary course of things, but he did not think this looked well. Mr. Kendall was nomi-

¹ At the annual March Meeting, 1779, "chose John Sanderson and David Slayton Hog howards."

² Deacon Kendall's stock of household effects, at the outset, would compare favorably, after all, with what some people, since his day, have possessed, on beginning married life in Woodstock. Mrs. Bashy Rice, wife of George W. Rice,

once made the remark that her entire wedding-outfit consisted of half a dozen cups and saucers and a little red paint round the windows. No one of Eve's daughters thinks of starting on such a journey now-a-days, without taking with her a supply of *necessaries* sufficient to fill a baggage-car.

nated that year, but the year following the authority went back to the old practice.

After the death of Abraham Kendall, January 28, 1828, the old farm came in due time to be owned by Edwin C. Hoadley, a connection of the family, who died April 6, 1880. It is now occupied by his son, J. Kendall Hoadley.

Another settler in this section was Sylvester Edson, who came from Brookfield, Mass., to Woodstock about the year 1782. He bought a hundred-acre lot in the fourth range of Apthorp South Tract, adjoining Hartland line, and lying easterly of the farm now occupied by Larnard C. Kendall. He built his first house within the limits of Hartland, but about the year 1798 he put up a two-story frame house in Woodstock. He continued to occupy this house till 1806, when, in connection with his son Sylvester, he built the brick house afterwards occupied by John Lake. He then moved off the hill into this house, and here lived till his death, the 12th day of February, 1813, of the prevailing fever. He was a mason and shoemaker by trade.

Isaac Kendall came to Woodstock about 1780,¹ and took up a farm which embraced the westerly half of Lot No. 1 in the fourth range, and of Lot No. 1 in the third range, Apthorp South Tract. He built a log house first, which stood about one hundred rods east of the present frame house on the farm. However, the first frame building on the farm was a small shed or barn, which Mr. Kendall called a hovel, put up not far from the log house. In after times his son Ira, mindful of the antiquity and honorable service of this hovel, caused it to be drawn down to his residence on the Branch, and fixed up and established once more on a good foundation, where it stood till burnt with the other outbuildings some few years ago.

The frame house on the farm Mr. Kendall built about 1790. In this he lived till his death, February 29, 1833, as did also his wife, who died April 30, 1834. After his decease the farm was carried on by his son Ira, who retained possession of it so long as he lived, but in 1840 moved from the hill into the house built by John Lake. After the death of Ira Kendall in 1868, his son Larnard C. Kendall sold the home farm to Thaddeus L. Fletcher, the present occupant.

Jacob Kendall settled in the town about the same year with

¹ The Land Records incline to favor 1786 as the date.

Isaac. He purchased of Israel Whitney Cummings the southerly half of the sixth in the fourth range of hundred-acre lots in the Apthorp Tract, the farm now occupied by I. T. Fullerton, and situated in District No. 16.

Another settler in District No. 17 was George Lake, who came to this town in 1779, and took up a farm of two hundred acres in Apthorp Tract, adjoining Abraham Kendall. He spent the first season getting things ready for another year, then returned to his home in Rindge, N. H., where he spent the winter. The next spring he took possession of his farm in Woodstock with wife and three children, and resided on the same till his death, the 23d of April, 1816. The Windsor papers gave a friendly notice of him at the time of his decease, speaking of him as universally esteemed for his suavity of manners, disinterested benevolence, and amiable deportment in all the walks of life. He was a worthy member of the Baptist Church, in the vicinity of his residence, for more than thirty years.

George Lake was succeeded on the farm by his son, Daniel, a man of vigorous frame, great physical strength, and great industry. It is related of Daniel Lake that for twenty years he tapped six hundred trees, and made on an average annually about four thousand pounds of sugar.¹ About the year 1825 he raised seven hundred bushels of corn, and on the same land, the next year, four hundred and fifty bushels of wheat. He once mowed an acre in fifty-six minutes, using a scythe five feet long, and cutting a swath twelve feet wide, forward three feet at every clip. He mowed six acres in one day, which yielded nine tons of hay. He could reckon in the latter years of his life that he had cleared three hundred acres of new land, and made a million of shingles. Mr. Lake was a cooper by trade, and one of the best workmen in town. His bass and tenor drums, the work of his own hands, had a great reputation. Other early settlers in this section of the town were the Holts, the Benjamins, and the Bridges, of whom further mention may be made at another time.

Almost the first school kept in this neighborhood was one conducted in the winter of 1788 by Elias Smith, then in his nineteenth year. According to his own statement, Smith's qualifications for this work were not large. A little of Dilworth's

¹ C. Richardson.

grammar and spelling-book, the elements of arithmetic picked up from Jabez Cottle, who was considered a man of good learning, Watts's logic, read under the eye of his uncle, Elder Ransom, — these constituted nearly the whole of his outfit. But if his acquirements for the task were light, his confidence in Elias Smith was very great; and did the good people of the neighborhood so wish, he proposed to keep school "in a corner of Hartland joining Woodstock." The schoolroom was to be in a new dwelling-house. The following is a description of it: "All the covering upon the frame was hemlock boards, feather-edged and nailed on. There were no clapboards on the outside, nor plastering nor sealing upon the inside. The chamber floor consisted of loose boards laid down, being neither jointed nor nailed. The lower floor was the same, and there was not one window in the room. All the light, except what came through between the boards, was as follows: there were two or three holes cut through the boards of the side and end of the house. These were filled up with a newspaper, — Spooner's 'Vermont Journal,' — which was oiled to let the light through, and fixed into thin strips of wood, and made fast. These were all the windows we had. Often when I first came into the room I could discern but little. In this cold, dark, inconvenient place I spent three months instructing others according to the best of my ability."¹

They have a better schoolhouse on the hill now, but it may not detain us longer at this time.

Stephen Smith, in April, 1782, came with his eldest son to this town, from Hebron, Conn., and purchased of Phinehas Hemenway one hundred acres of land, being Lot No. 6 in Apthorp South Tract. On this land he cleared twelve acres, merely leveling the trees, and then put up the four sides of a house made of split basswood logs, and in June following returned to Connecticut for his family, leaving his son behind. In August he returned, bringing his family with him, reaching his new home after a journey of thirteen days. As yet his house had neither floor nor roof, but all hands went to work to make ready for the night, fixed up their beds in some shape, placed pieces of bark overhead "to keep off the dew," and in such lodgings slept soundly till morning. Things began to improve after this, and

¹ *Life*, page 93.

the next day, with the help of neighbors, the house was put in more comfortable shape. Nothing was done toward clearing the land till the following spring. The first piece cleared was set apart by Mr. Smith as a burial-place, and here he was buried, when he died, in the summer of 1806. The log house was occupied five years, and beginning to decay then, it was abandoned for a frame house built in the summer of 1788.

Stephen Smith was a Baptist, and it is understood that he continued in communion with the Baptist Church till his death. But three of his children — Elias, Uriah, and Richard Ransom — passed each through quite a remarkable religious experience. Elias, in particular, acted a prominent part in the religious movements of the day, and his sayings and doings are copiously set forth in the pamphlets and periodical literature of the times in which he lived.

Richard Ransom Smith, above mentioned, took to preaching, like his brothers, and was ordained first a Baptist minister, at Conway, N. H., about the year 1793. After preaching a few years, he embraced Universalism, and advocated the new doctrine for some time, going about from place to place, but laboring mostly in parts of New Hampshire. At length he gave up preaching, and came to South Woodstock, where he settled as a goldsmith; but being taken sick with a cancer, and hearing of a man in Canada who cured such troubles, he went to him and found relief. Obtaining the recipe for his cure, Smith next returned home and tried it on others afflicted in the same way, and cured them. In fact, he claimed that, if seasonably applied to, he would actually cure, besides cancers, various other diseases incident to the human body, such as consumption, etc. Meeting with some success in this branch of thaumaturgy, he concluded to study medicine under Dr. Drew, and after practicing awhile in South Woodstock, moved to Boston in 1816.¹

Jonathan Farnsworth made his first visit to Woodstock in the autumn of 1774, to look the land over, and picked a farm in the south part of the town. His purchase embraced lots numbered 3, 4, and 5 in the fourth range of hundred-acre lots in Apthorp South Tract. However, his deed of these lots he waited for

¹ See Life of Elias Smith, Abner Jones's Life, *Vt. Republican*, Aug. 22, 1811. If a'l this be true about Richard Ransom Smith, surely our fellow townsman, Dr. Nathaniel Randall, will except this Richard from his harsh criticism on physicians in general; that is, that "the doctors don't know anything." (1886).

till 1782, when he received one under the Confiscation Act. He cleared a spot, planted a nursery, and left it. The next year he came to Woodstock to live, and was crossing Hartland Hill the day Bunker Hill battle was fought, and used to relate that he heard distinctly the sound of the cannon from the battlefield. His brother, Stephen, who settled in the town that year, took a deed of the east half of Lot Number 3, while Jonathan retained the rest of the above-named lots. His farm was reckoned one of the most productive in the town. Among other characteristics, he was a great apple-tree man, and in carrying out his fancy in this direction, he experimented some years to make apple-trees grow the wrong side up, so as to produce fruit without seeds and cores. Once he set two scions he was certain were of the kind he was endeavoring to produce. These scions did not bear flowers for years. Finally they blossomed, and a few apples matured, long and slim, with two cores instead of one, after which further experiment in this direction was given up.

In the summer of 1794 Stephen Farnsworth, Nathan Cook, and Abel Bugbee built a saw-mill near Reading line, about a mile and a half above the South Village, and in 1796 Jonathan Farnsworth and Mr. Cook built the grist-mill.¹ Mr. Richardson relates that in the fall of 1807 he worked for Jonathan Farnsworth, who at that time was carrying on a heavier business at farming than any other man in town. It was estimated that he raised apples enough that year to fill fifteen hundred barrels, and his stock of cider on hand was sufficient to float a seventy-four. That same season he harvested, from forty acres, about fifteen hundred bushels of corn. Other products of the farm were raised in proportion, and some days during the time of harvest he gave employment to forty men and boys.

Nathaniel Wood, of Middleborough, Mass., took up a farm of some four hundred and fifty acres to the south of Stephen Smith, extending down to Reading line. His purchase embraced lots numbered six, seven, and eight in the second range, and half of Lot No. 7 in the first range of the Apthorp Tract. He bought in 1779, and settled in the town the following year. Nathaniel Wood was descended from excellent parentage. His grandfather, Samuel Wood, was one of twenty persons who, on the 26th day of December, 1694, organized the First Congregational

¹ Capt. J. B. Farnsworth, Nov. 12, 1870.

Church in Middleborough, Mass. His father, Samuel Wood, Jr., was ordained deacon in the same church, March 5, 1737, and Nathaniel himself was received as member the 11th of April, 1742, continuing a member till he was dismissed, in 1783, to the Congregational Church in the South Parish in Woodstock.

Next to Joseph Call, Captain Nathaniel Wood was reputed the man of greatest physical strength who ever resided in Woodstock, and marvelous feats are sometimes related of him in the exercise of his muscular powers. To the last year of his life he attended all the raisings in his neighborhood, and was present when Andrew Smith's house was raised, June 25, 1803, but died the same day, aged about seventy-eight.¹

Three roads lead from South Woodstock to the Green. In following the middle road we soon reach the farm and residence of Joseph Wood, who came to this town from Middleborough, Mass., about 1785, and purchased this farm of Ebenezer Kingsley. He was one of eleven sons of Ichabod Wood, served two campaigns in the Revolutionary War, and after his settlement in Woodstock won additional laurels in the military line by being elected captain of the company of militia in 1791. But he is best known as having been overseer of the poor in this town for eighteen successive years, and was holding the office when he died, April 17, 1826. He was held in high respect by all, and esteemed an honest, upright man. He married Bethiah Gray, widow of Billy Gray, and daughter of Gershom Palmer. She was born in Mansfield, Conn., April 10, 1766; died, January 10, 1848, at the age of eighty-two years.

Ira Wood, one of the sons of Joseph Wood, was born March 2, 1797; married Rebecca Christie. He used to relate how at one period of his life he spent some time in the Southern States, where he passed through a rough and quite singular experience. He resided chiefly in Woodstock; tanned leather after a new and improved method; in the latter part of his life had a shop in this village adjoining Mr. Standish's house, where he manufactured from leather of his own tanning gloves and mittens of superior style and quality; died suddenly, Thursday, January 27, 1870.

¹ This fact obtained from Otis Wood, 1870. Mr. Wood, who is a resident of District No 18, is now (1886) publishing in the *Vermont Standard* some valuable sketches of the several early settlers in that district, to which reference is had for further historical matter relating to that section of the town.

Samuel Wood, another son, was born September 7, 1799; married Fanny Palmer, daughter of Gershom Palmer, of Calais, Vt., September, 1837; resided in this town on the homestead; died April 26, 1875; his wife died December 7, 1864, at the age of fifty-four years.

Few persons have lived in this town more deserving of honorable mention as faithful public officers than Captain Samuel Wood. He was variously elected superintendent of schools, highway surveyor, grand juror, justice of the peace, town agent, etc. He was first elected one of the selectmen in 1835, and served in this capacity for twenty-six years. But he was best known as overseer of the poor. Chosen to fill this most important position in 1838, he continued to occupy it till his death, embracing a period of thirty-seven years. So well informed did he come to be in this department of town affairs, that he was recognized as an authority, not only among the community where he lived, but throughout the State. He was a man of sound principles and of strict fidelity in all his dealings with his fellow-men.

That section of the town embraced in School District No. 9 is crossed by two main roads leading from South Village to the Green. These unite at the top of Church Hill, near Harvey Lockwood's, and are connected by a branch road which turns off easterly near the schoolhouse. On this branch road, in early times, Oliver Farnsworth settled, brother to Jonathan and Stephen. A few words about the family should be given here.

Three brothers, Samuel, David, and Stephen Farnsworth, settled in No. 4, afterwards Charlestown, N. H., in 1740. Stephen married Eunice Hastings, born in Watertown, Mass., September 3, 1722. His captivity among the Indians, which occurred in 1746, is one of the well-known events of those days. He died in Charlestown, September 6, 1771, at the age of fifty-seven. In 1778, his widow moved to this town and lived with her son Stephen till her death, which took place Friday, the 21st of June, 1811. She left a numerous offspring, namely, six children, forty-six grandchildren, and seventy-five great-grandchildren, making in all one hundred and twenty-seven. She never experienced a fit of sickness in the course of her life, except a slight attack of fever. She never made use of many of the luxuries of life; was much averse to spirituous liquor of any kind. Her principal diet was milk and vegetables. She was confined in her last sickness

about nine weeks, during which distressing scene she manifested the greatest calmness, composure of mind, and Christian fortitude, and left the world in the full assurance of a blessed immortality beyond the grave.¹

Several of the children of Stephen and Eunice Farnsworth settled in Woodstock. Two of these, Jonathan and Stephen, have been mentioned already. Still another was Oliver, born at No. 4, December 8, 1742, being the first child born in the "Old Fort." He purchased four hundred and twenty acres of land situated in District No. 9, of which he received a deed the 4th of June, 1773, and he must have occupied this land soon after, as his name appears among the list of town officers chosen at the annual meeting held the following spring. From that time onward he was elected to various offices in the town, and as his house occupied a central and convenient position, town meetings were called there frequently, as many as seven in succession being held at this place from August 14, 1780, to April 8, 1782. At one of these meetings, held March 14, 1781, it was voted that no sled should be suffered to run in the highway less than four feet wide, "without it is a going on a journey."² About the 1st of November, 1785, Mr. Farnsworth was taken sick and died, and his death was felt to be a great loss to the infant settlement. His estate was divided among his six surviving children. The homestead was occupied in later times by Benjamin F. Mack.

The first settler in District No. 9 was Jonathan Kingsley, who came from Woodstock, Conn., to Rockingham in the New Hampshire grants in 1768, thence to Hartland; and from Hartland he moved to Woodstock in 1772. This last move took place in the spring. He was accompanied by his son, Jonathan Kingsley, Jr., and the two were employed in a surveying party, to assist in setting out Captain John Church's tract of some twelve hundred acres of land, located mainly in the above named school district. The following year father and son together took Lot No. 1 in this tract.³ Ebenezer Kingsley, brother to Jonathan, Jr., occupied a lot situated also in the Church Tract, and lying south of Jona-

¹ *Vermont Republican*, July 8, 1811.

² January 29, 1791, the Legislature took this matter up and passed a law, that "No person shall drive a sled over the roads or highways in Windsor and Orange Counties between the first of No-

vember and the first of April in any year except the sled be four feet wide measuring across the runners from outside to outside."

³ See Chauncey Richardson's statement, *Vermont Standard*, April 11, 1862.

than's. A third brother, Nehemiah, settled in the same neighborhood. Ebenezer appears first as a resident of the town at the annual town meeting in May, 1775, when he was chosen constable and overseer of highways. Jonathan Kingsley does not appear among the town officers till the following year, when he was elected at the annual meeting sealer of weights and measures.

Other heads of families who settled early in this district may be only mentioned here, namely, Lemuel Murdock, Lathrop, Briggs, Perry, Shaw, now all passed away, and the descendants of only a few of whom still remain in the district.

The school and schoolhouse in this district have some peculiar features to be named. The first schoolhouse in this section may have been built of logs, as in other parts of the town, but the earliest one of which any recollection can be now obtained was a framed building, standing near a brook in those days plentifully supplied with trout. Fifteen rods west from the building was a copious spring of water, whither the scholars went for a drink when thirsty. No vessel filled with water was then kept ready at hand, as is the case now-a-days. Along three sides of the house seats were extended, with desks in front opening at each end and in the middle. To get in and out the scholars usually clambered over the desks. Near the door a large fireplace was set up, there being no stoves then. In one corner was placed an ordinary-sized table for the teacher, at which four of the grown scholars had their seats.

The spelling and reading were done in line on the floor by all except the first class, who rose in their seats and read. The boys were taught to bow and the girls to courtesy on entering the school-room, also before and after readings. Also when abroad, on the highway, they were taught, if any person passed in carriage or on foot, to form in line beside the road and, hat in hand, to make obeisance. In cold weather the fire was built by the scholars in turn. Both ink and inkstands were of home manufacture. Commonly the inkstands were cast from lead and pewter, and such of the scholars as could not get this article took cattle-horns and put bottoms to them, then clipped them at the top for the dipping of the pen, and the inside was always partly filled with cotton. The inkstands had further a covering of cotton cloth, to keep them from damaging desks, paper, and clothes. The ink was made from white maple bark boiled

down thick enough for use. The pens, of course, were made from the goose quill. No ruled paper then, but each scholar ruled his own copy-book, and for this purpose, in addition to his inkstand, was equipped with plummet and ruler. A long, heavy specimen of this latter article the teacher also carried, likewise a penknife for making and mending pens. In fact, so important a part in conducting the school was this business of making and mending pens, that the teacher was accustomed to be at his post half an hour before it was time to begin the morning session, to provide beforehand a batch of pens for the day's use, and yet during school hours always some one would be calling out, "Please mend my pen."

The play and idle time for the school, so to speak, was when the large grammar-class was parsing. To this exercise the teacher gave an hour, leaning back in his chair meanwhile, with feet placed on the table, and during the exercise the rest of the school might leave their seats, exchange articles, and do various other things, without asking permission.

This schoolhouse was burnt in the winter of 1822 or 1823, Nathan Thomas being then the teacher. The school, however, was continued at "Bill" Harlow's, a short distance off, the Harlow family having plenty of room and no children. Charles French and son, probably the next summer, erected a new schoolhouse on the site of the old one that was burnt. The year when the fireplace was abolished and the schoolroom warmed by a stove for the first time is not ascertained; but some of the scholars of old times still survive, who recollect that Nathaniel Randall built a frame about the stove when it was first put up, to keep the children from getting burnt.¹ Concerning this same Nathaniel Randall a few words may be added here.

Early in the history of this country, three brothers by the name of Randall came over from England, and settled in the New England colonies. Nathaniel Randall, a descendant of one of these, lived at a place called Job's Landing, in Pembroke, Mass., and was by trade a shipwright. He was twice married, having born to him by the first wife three children, whose names were Lydia, Hannah, and Nathaniel; by the second wife, six, namely, Gaius, Thomas, John, Stetson, Elias, and Deborah. About 1788, or a little later, he moved from Pembroke to Wood-

¹ Dr. N. Randall.

stock, and settled on land in the south part of the town, near Reading line, adjoining Abiah Rice's farm. Here he lived for many years, following the business of farming and house-building, till, about sixty-three years ago, he moved, with most of the children, to Bristol, N. Y. While living in Bristol, and being then past his eightieth year, the spirit of his youthful profession came over him once more, and he made four three-masted vessels in full rig, with hulls about fifteen inches long, perfect specimens of the shipmaster's art. These he set up in the yard before his dwelling-house, suspending them from cross-poles, so that they moved round and round in the play of the wind, and were the admiration of the neighborhood.

Nathaniel Randall, son of the foregoing, was born at Job's Landing in 1781. He came to Woodstock with his father, settled here, and grew up to be a man of large family and of moderate means, with a disposition to industrious habits and prudent courses in all the affairs of life. He was an excellent farmer and a good mechanic; could make boots and shoes, and so provide the genuine, home-made article in this line for his children. The neighborhood where he lived was made up of Rev. Andrew Smith, Elijah Smith, Thomas Brown, Mr. Stetson, Captain Joseph Wood, Jonathan Kingsley, and himself. These men drew together in getting and using particular articles; would unite in building a cider-mill or in obtaining a new plough; and would get together in the spring and "stent" themselves; that is, agree, for instance, to do so much work at laying stone wall, besides doing their own regular work.

Although it was the general habit to drink liquor in those days, and keep cider brandy in the cellar by the barrel, Mr. Randall inclined to temperate habits, and rather put these good things aside. He never made a profession of religion, yet he was quite remarkable for the control he exercised over his tongue, and was never known to use an oath in his life.

November 12, 1801, Mr. Randall was married to Betsey Brown, only daughter of Thomas and Hannah Brown, who was born in Middleborough, Mass., in 1781. Their children were as follows: Millson Carver, born December 15, 1802; Thomas, born November 14, 1804; Sylvanus, born April 5, 1807; Nathaniel, born July 14, 1809; Hannah Eliza, born February 24, 1812; Betsey Ann, born May 15, 1814; Myrick O., born June

25, 1817 ; Billy Decatur, born August 8, 1819 ; Joseph Volney, born March 22, 1822. No death occurred among the members of this family (except the father's) till the youngest child was thirty years old. Nathaniel Randall died August 30, 1825 ; his wife, Betsey, not till April 29, 1863, thus surviving her husband nearly thirty-eight years.

Before leaving this part of the town it is best to speak of Stephen Delano, whose farm was located on Biscuit Hill. As early as 1773, Delano came to Woodstock and purchased of William Powers Lot 134, as it was called, bounded on the west by Apthorp West Tract, and lying near land afterwards taken up by Phinehas Williams. He was a man of restless, ambitious temperament, and evidently aspired to a more prominent position among men than that of plain farmer. Soon he began to take part in the political and religious movements of the day, read books, and took to writing prose and poetry. He was fond of controversy, and especially in his religious ideas quite progressive. It appears that he first united with the Congregational Church in this town, or was a member of that connection in some way, so as to be counted as belonging to the order, and therefore subject to the jurisdiction of the church ; but soon after Mr. Daman's church was organized he left it and joined the Baptists, then just established as a religious body in the town. For twelve years Delano continued an active member of the Baptist Church, and then his religious beliefs seem to have experienced a radical change, and from a Calvinistic Baptist he became a pronounced Universalist. In support of the views he had now adopted, he wrote several pamphlets, among others one entitled, "Limited Election and Reprobation as it stands contrasted with Scripture." As there was nothing new or very deep in his pamphlet, this led to his being stigmatized by his opponents as a man who, by studying without a guide, and beating his head against problems beyond his reach, had turned his brain and viewed everything on the wrong side. In politics a Federalist at first and ardent admirer of Washington, by degrees Delano's opinions on these subjects changed ; he became tinged with red republicanism, and presently came out a staunch Jeffersonian Democrat. In advocacy of these new political and social doctrines, he took up the pen after a most lively style. This led at once to replies from the Federal side, and the contest between the belligerent parties

was acrimonious in the extreme. A writer in the "Vermont Journal," who signs himself Momus, making merry over the Democratic Philistine giants who had undertaken to match themselves against the political Samsons on the other side, thus speaks of Delano: "Why, really, sir, for these three years past you merit the thanks of all your democratic friends; by what name or title shall I address you? Why, you have more names and titles than any grandee in his most Catholic majesty's dominions. Let me see, — Mr. Candor, Lampoon, Ça ira, Bushwhacker, Saint De-La-No, native of New Bedford, citizen of Woodstock; Poetaster and Punster for the Democrats, epitaph writer and sexton to the Aristocrats. Then you are such a poet, — O sweet poet of Woodstock hills!" etc., etc.

In a single number of the "Vermont Journal," that for October 19, 1795, Delano's effusions appear over three of the above titles assigned to him, namely, Ça ira, Lampoon, and S. D. The one signed Ça ira¹ is a curiosity, and is the one alluded to above in "sexton to the Aristocrats." Two or three lines will suffice.

"EPITAPH.

"Here lie the slimsey remains of aristocratic wit,
Which shone awhile with uncommon brilliancy
Illuminating the fifteen United States;
Evidently calculated to bamboozle the people
into a just sense of their dearest rights; until
Exhausting its glow-worm taper in squibs, crackers,
buffoonery, and bombast, is now set
In eternal oblivion!!!" and so on, and so forth.

If any person in these days thinks Walt Whitman a curiosity or a novelty in American literature, he may find in our Stephen Delano, beyond question, Whitman's parent and original.

Delano's verse, both in variety and quality, was indeed remarkable, and numerous specimens of it may be found in the newspapers of the day, and on the headstones in some of our cemeteries. His last poem written in Woodstock, so far as I have noticed, appeared in the "Northern Memento" for November 21, 1805, being a sort of farewell addressed to a friend. Soon after this time the family broke up and Delano went away. He removed with part

¹ The famous song of the French Revolution. Ça ira, doubtless was as familiar in Woodstock, in Delano's time, as in the streets of Paris; nor less lively here than there the animosity against the "aristocrats."

of his family to Clinton township, near Columbus, Ohio, where he died about the 1st of January, 1822, at the age of seventy-five. His fondness for writing continued to the last, and the Ohio local newspaper, in noticing his death, recites that he "was possessed of strong mind and a brilliant genius. His pen was like that of 'a ready writer;' many a fragment, both in prose and verse, may be found in the several journals and newspapers of the day in which he wrote. In the 'Ohio Monitor,' printed at Columbus, nearly one hundred pieces of prose emanated from his pen since he was seventy years of age. He lived and died a zealous advocate for the principles of the Revolution and co-equal rights of men. Soon after, Mary, his consort, followed him to that 'narrow house' destined for mortals. Both died with a malignant fever which has prevailed in many parts of the Western country."

CHAPTER X.

THE EARLY SETTLERS AND BUILDINGS IN WOODSTOCK VILLAGE.

THE road, as originally laid over the plain which is now covered by the village of Woodstock, came down Hartland Hill some distance north of the present road, and passing over the site of the stone house erected by Mr. Blake came up on the flat by the line of the railroad; it then followed the high bank of the river up behind the site of the old court-house, then down by the edge of the stream a short distance, and again taking the plain at Mr. McKenzie's house passed up the line of the present road over Church Hill, so called, and thence found its way to the south part of the town. This road was about fifty feet wide. At or near the present middle bridge was a fordway across the river, and on the opposite side of the stream the road followed the high bank up to Mr. Marble's house, then passed over the hill, and so on. In 1792 that portion of the old road which lay along the high bank of the river, westerly of Elm Street, having fallen into disuse, reverted to the estate of Joab Hoisington, and was sold to Captain Richardson. The road, a short time previous to this date, had left the high bank of the river a little above the site of the brick meeting-house, and turning southerly, crossed the plain to the Common not far from the course it now takes. The plain itself was heavily timbered with spruce, maple, elm, and some pine. The first settler on this plain was Joab Hoisington, who made large purchases of land here in 1771-72, moved into this town in 1772, and put up the first log house on the Green, as is more particularly stated elsewhere. According to Jonathan Kingsley, a saw-mill was already erected on the brook near Joab Hoisington's house when he moved into town in the fall of 1773, and a grist-mill was put up near the saw-mill in the spring of 1774. Mr. Job Lyman, in "Thompson's Gazetteer," 1824, puts the erection of these mills in 1776. Chauncey Richardson's statement concerning the mills, as taken down April 7, 1869, is this; that they stood on the east bank of the brook, opposite where the jail stands, but a little lower down the brook. This is

as he saw them when about five years old, on occasion of a visit to his father, then confined in the jail. They were in a tumble-down condition and no longer in use; probably had not been for some time. A few rods westerly of Hoisington's house was a "forty foot barn," put up by him about the same season with the saw-mill, and claimed to be the first framed building of any kind erected in the town. This barn was torn down by Mr. Burk in 1877, after it had stood a little over a hundred years.

The first framed dwelling-house on the Common was built by the widow Hoisington and Isaac, eldest son of Joab, in the summer of 1777. It was a one-story building, not painted, and after being occupied by the family a few years, was sold with the farm to Captain Richardson, in September, 1783, who moved into it in May, 1784. The captain added a storeroom, where he kept a small assortment of goods for sale. This house was occupied afterwards by Ebenezer Fitch.

As the Green is the oldest part of the village, it may be well enough to state here all that is to be stated concerning the several buildings which from time to time have been erected about its borders, including an occasional remark concerning some of the people who have occupied these buildings. On the site of Joab Hoisington's log cabin Artemas Baker built a house in 1793. He was a trader and tavern-keeper, and came to this town as early as 1791, but appears to have remained here only a few years. In 1795 Elisha Taylor occupied this house as a tavern, while building his own hotel on the opposite side of the street. In 1798 it became the property of Major Benjamin Swan, and was held and occupied by him till 1825, when he exchanged it with Sylvester Edson for the Carlton House on Elm Street. In 1827 Major Churchill moved into it, and it still remains in possession of the family.

The stone buildings next above Major Churchill's were erected by Sylvester Edson in 1827-28, from material intended in the first place to be used for the construction of the Episcopal church.

This is not the place to speak of the library-building, which comes next, but on the site now occupied by this edifice stood for many years a house put up by Mrs. Cleveland, wife of Josiah Cleveland, a sea-captain, about the year 1798. In 1800 house and lot became the property of Nicholas Baylies, Esq., who presently moved into it and occupied it till 1809, when he left Wood-





stock to settle in Montpelier. The house was then sold to Charles Marsh, Esq., and was occupied by Captain Thomas Witt till 1818, when it was purchased by Norman Williams, Esq. Mr. Williams speaks of his purchase in these words: "The house was pleasantly situated on the Green, but was not for some reason much sought for. The rooms were said to be too high, and the house a whimsical one; but it suited me exactly, and I was never more pleased with any purchase." Under Mr. Williams's charge this place became one of the pleasantest residences in the village, and remained in his possession till his death in 1868. In 1883 the house was taken down, and in place of it the present Library Building was erected by Edward H. Williams.

On the site of the court-house Abraham Hedge put up a small store-building in 1793. He came from Windsor, and opened a drug-shop in the store of Artemas Baker, where he remained for one year, and then established himself in his new store. He kept genuine drugs and medicines for "Practitioners of Physic and the Public," which he was willing to sell in exchange for salts of lye, beef cattle, good saddle-horses, or even money. He did not enjoy very good health, and gave up business in 1795, and having a mind to pursue medical studies, took the degree of Bachelor of Medicine at Hanover in 1799. He died at Windsor in 1809, of consumption.

April 7, 1794, Moses Osgood informed the public that he carried on the saddlery business in all its branches in a part of the store belonging to Doctor Hedge. That same season Osgood put up a shop adjoining Hedge's, about thirty by thirty-five feet in extent, and continued the business some four years, then removed to Berlin. In the month of July, 1801, at Burlington, he put an end to his existence by hanging himself. He was succeeded by John Carlton, who commenced the saddlery, harness, and trunk-making business at this stand June 28, 1798. Carlton also made caps, holsters, and cartouch-boxes for horsemen, and was a famous hand at his work.

January, 1795, Elmer Darbe & Co. advertised a very handsome supply of West India and European goods, fresh from New York, which they were selling at the store lately occupied by Abraham Hedge. That same year Darbe put up the two-story building just above, and the firm of Darbe & Co. moved from their old stand to their new store the 15th day of December.

The firm did business but a short time at this stand, and then dissolved, and in February, 1800, the house became the property and residence of Dr. Joseph A. Gallup.

After the year 1800 the long building was used in various ways for many years. The east half became the law-office of Nicholas Baylies, and was so used till 1807, and was then converted into a dwelling-house. The other part was Dr. Gallup's shop and office for some years, and was then used for a school-room, and finally converted into a dwelling-house. In 1828 Arthur McGowan purchased this half, and moved it over on River Street, where it is still standing. The other half became the property of Norman Williams, who, in the course of time, conveyed it to Miss Harriet and Miss Patty Myrick, on certain terms and conditions not named in this book.

These two maiden ladies were daughters of Samuel Myrick, and made and mended clothes for nearly all the boys in the village. Their style of fitting garments was primitive, like their own style of dress; but as to the sewing and stitching part, no shoemaker or saddler drew his threads tighter or more faithfully than they did in their work. In their dress they used great plainness, and, indeed, were singularly indifferent to all ornamental touches and effects. No bustles nor hoops were to be found in their wardrobe; neither changeable suits of apparel, nor mantles and crimping-pins.

The ladies were as simple in their food and drink as in their dress. A cup of green tea, and an egg laid by their own hens, they considered a good bill of fare. Yellow snuff they also esteemed highly and partook of freely, after the fashion of the times; and when the last of the generous pinch was consumed, around which they did not linger long, the thumb and finger which had held the pinch were brought with brisk stroke down the side of the dress. One trait of character they exhibited, not too common among mankind, — they did not like to have the night come and find them in debt to any one. Once upon a time Harriet was taken sick of a fever. Two of her neighbors went into the house to look after her, fixed up a cot, and made things as comfortable as the case permitted. In time Harriet got well. At the first opportunity she called on one of these kind neighbors, and told her she had come to pay her debts. Said she: "Mrs. W. was the regular physician, and you were

counsel. I have paid her, and it is right you should have your pay, too." The half dollar that accompanied these words soon found its way back to Harriet in the shape of green tea.

The Misses Myrick esteemed all the days of the week alike, except that Sunday, being specially quiet and unbroken by visitors, was regarded as the best day of the seven for work. They had peculiar notions about the soul and its destiny hereafter, and though they did not philosophize deeply on this subject, they held, in the main, to the Oriental doctrine of transmigration. The spider on the wall, therefore, was left to spin his web undisturbed, for the reason, as they assigned, that possibly some departed friend had come back to this world, in that shape, to visit them.¹ After the county bought, in 1854, the house-lot on which they lived so long, for the site of the new court-house, the Misses Myrick moved to Taftsville, where they spent the rest of their days, and died there, about the year 1865. Their patient industry and saving habits had enabled them to accumulate a handsome property, which, after their decease, was distributed among a numerous company of surviving relatives.

The tavern on the corner, known since 1830 as the Eagle Hotel, was built by Captain Richardson in 1793. As originally — put up, it consisted of a two-story building facing the Common, with an ell of one story extending in the direction of South Street. It stood without change, beyond necessary repairs, till 1822, when Titus Hutchinson put up the brick wing for a dining-room and hall. Cutting & Phillips, in 1830, raised the ell part on South Street one story, and put on the piazzas. At the same time Moody Heath, an expert at wood-carving, then in the employ of Fisher & McLaughlin, carved that gilded eagle which gave name to the hotel and still adorns it. Afterwards a third story was put up, and in 1867 the Messrs. Fairbanks repaired the premises and added a fourth story.

On the 11th of December, 1848, Titus Hutchinson conveyed the hall in the brick wing to the Sons of Temperance, who used it and retained it as a place of meeting till January, 1885. On

¹ The Misses Myrick were undoubtedly familiar with Ethan Allen's book, *Oracles of Reason*. Allen believed, or pretended to believe, in this doctrine of transmigration, and was often heard to affirm that he should live again, under the form of a large white horse. (See Grahame's *Letters*, page 143.) Harriet Myrick used to say she was afraid, after she died, that some time she should be changed into a stage-horse. She did not want that. Anything but a stage-horse.

the 17th day of that month a fire broke out in this wing, and destroyed it. Soon after the fire the Sons disposed of their interest in the premises to Mr. Merrill, who rebuilt the burnt part at once, and the hotel was reopened for company about the 1st of June following.

The brick dwelling-house on the opposite corner of the street, now the residence of Mrs. Allen, was built by General Lyman Mower in 1823. The old dwelling-house then standing on the same site was removed to South Street, on the corner next above where School Street comes in, and made over into a two-story tenement, and occupied by Colonel Justus Burdick. The house next above Mrs. Allen's was built by M. O. Randall, in 1840. It is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Munger. The house next above the Methodist Church, the old jail-building, after having been used many years as a tavern was removed to its present site, about 1833, by General Mower, and converted into a double tenement. The first persons with their families to occupy these two tenements were Eliakim Johnson and Gustavus H. Mower. The house next above was built by Tille Parker in 1807, for the accommodation of the members of the legislature, which held its session in this town the fall of that year. In 1797 Parker was carrying on the clothing business at Bethel, in the fulling-mills previously occupied by William Burbank. He came to Woodstock in 1806, and took the stand on the Green, "the old jail building," just vacated by Mr. Burtch. Having made great improvements in the house and stables, he opened a tavern here, September 26, and solicited the patronage of the public, describing his house as a place "where the weary traveler may recline on the bed of down; where the hungry may gratify his appetite either with the common bounties of Providence or the luxuries of life; where the thirsty may allay his thirst with the cooling stream or a little wine for the stomach's sake; and where the low in spirits may find help by applying a little of the juice of the cane." Parker remained in town but a short time. The two tenements at the foot of the hill were built by Daniel Lockwood; the brick one in 1832, the other in 1809.

On the site of the Episcopal church stood, in former times, a pearlash erected by Benjamin Swan, as described elsewhere. After the death of Samuel Chandler, in 1813, his executors leased this pearlash to S. Edson & Co., of which firm Dr. Gallup





was senior partner. Through this connection the pearlash came to be owned at last by the doctor, who, in 1827, conveyed the premises to the parish of St. James Church, and the pearlash was taken down. A little distance westerly or northwesterly of this pearlash stood a house which was occupied by Ebenezer Fitch when he first moved into this town, in 1793. Mr. Fitch resided in this house some years, and here carried on his hatter's shop. What more is to be said of him may be added in this place.

Mr. Fitch's grandparents, if records be correct, were Benjamin Fitch and Hannah Read, who were married November 8, 1713, and resided in Norwich, Conn. They had a son, Ebenezer, born February 1, 1724, O. S. This Ebenezer married Mary Huntington, September 3, 1750. They had a large family of children, among the number a son Ebenezer, the subject of the present sketch, born October 29, 1759, in Norwich, Conn. After having grown up to manhood, Mr. Fitch, through the persuasions of President Wheelock, of Dartmouth College, was induced to settle at Hanover, where he established a hatter's shop. From Hanover he presently moved to Royalton in this State, and was pursuing the hatting business in that place in 1789. Four years later he came to Woodstock and set up a hatter's shop on the Green. He advertised his change and new place of business as follows: —

“Ebenezer Fitch, Hatter, Respectfully informs the Public that he carries on the Hatting business with neatness and dispatch in Woodstock a few rods west of the Court House where may be had Ladies and Gentlemen's Hats of the most fashionable Kind. Hats exchanged for Sheep and Lamb skins with the wool on, or Sheared Lamb's wool.”

“WOODSTOCK, September 2^d, [1793].”

November 23^d Mr. Fitch advertised again: —

“Wanted a quantity of Rabbit skins for which a generous price will be paid in cash by Ebenezer Fitch at his shop on Woodstock Green. N. B. The method of stretching those skins is by splitting the skins and laying the flesh side to a rough board in its natural bigness without any fastening.”

One more advertisement must suffice.

“Ebenezer Fitch Respectfully informs his customers and the public in general that he has just received from Canada a large stock of furs and has one of the first workmen from the city of

New York and will be able to furnish LADIES and GENTLEMEN with Hats *of the newest fashion and first quality.*"

"WOODSTOCK August 7th, 1799."

In 1801 Mr. Fitch purchased of Mrs. Susanna Richardson the house and shop on the west side of the Common, next below the court-house, and removed his hatting establishment to that place. This continued his place of business for the remainder of his life, with the exception of a short period about the year 1805, when it was transferred to the opposite side of the Common.

Next below the place occupied by Ebenezer Fitch stood a small house built by John Mallard as early as 1794;¹ a few years later it became the residence of Dr. John D. Powers. In 1810 the doctor moved the old building back, to serve for a kitchen, and put up in place of it a two-story dwelling-house. After his death in 1854 the house and land passed to Dr. Thomas E. Powers, who made great improvements on the place, but did not occupy it. In December, 1868, the house became the property and residence of Justin F. McKenzie, who has embellished and beautified the place in various ways, until it has become one of the most attractive spots in the village.

Between Dr. Powers's house and the one below stood for many years a small building used by Dr. John D. Powers for an office, then by Calvin Robinson Powers for a dwelling-house. In April, 1869, it was removed by James H. Murdock to the further end of South Street, and made over into a new house.

The house next below is a modern structure, put up by George Mellish in 1869. On the site of this house stood for many years a one-story double tenement, originally built about 1794, and "improved by Zebulon Chandler" in 1796. For many years Isaac Warren, the village tailor, occupied the westerly end of this tenement. In 1810 he moved to Lansingburgh, N. Y., and the building became the property of Lyman Mower, who sold it to Mr. Mellish in 1837. Mr. Mellish improved the place and occupied it till 1869, when the old house was sold to H. D. Wheeler, and by him removed to School Street, where it now stands.

The first building to occupy the site of the next house was a blacksmith-shop set up by Samuel Sherman in 1794; made over into a dwelling-house by John Pollard in 1799; occupied after-

¹ Old deeds.

wards for several years by the celebrated Mr. Leet, the superior excellence of whose gingerbread is attested by thousands of credible witnesses, but the secret of this excellence no mortal has ever been able to explain. After some time the building was again converted into a blacksmith-shop by Lyman Mower, and Lewis Pratt, Sr., carried on the blacksmith business here till June 6, 1822, when the shop was burnt about three o'clock in the morning. A sketch of the house now occupying this site is given elsewhere.

The next building was originally a one-story red house, built about 1795; owned and occupied for a while by Dr. Shadrach Darbe, neighborhood physician and sometime tavern-keeper, who purchased of Ahimaaz Sherwin. In 1797 the doctor sold out to Pierce & Johnson. But this and the house below are best described together. The narrow strip of land on which this row of houses was built, embracing about one fourth of an acre, fell to Bliss and Ozias Hoisington, children of Joab, the original owner of the Green, being a part of "the patrimonial share" in the estate of the said Joab. They sold it to William Perkins in 1794, who divided it up into small house-lots. About 1795 Roger Williams and Walter Bugbee leased one of these lots, on which Bugbee built a house. In 1797 the building was sold to Pierce & Johnson, who opened a store in the west end, and kept house in the east end. This partnership was dissolved in the following October, and Johnson went on alone for a while. Next Elmer Darbe, who had just gone out of business on the opposite side of the Common, took this stand, and kept up trade a short season, then stopped. In 1802 both of these houses became the property of Titus Hutchinson, who rented them many years, and always described them as his two red houses. In the upper one Isaiah H. Carpenter kept a printing-office in 1805, and the house, after having been occupied by different persons till 1840, was then sold to Nathaniel Randall, who raised it one story, painted it white, and much improved the premises. Albert Packer lived there next, and when he went away, sold to H. H. Walling, dentist, the present owner of the house. The other red house was occupied by Nathaniel Waldron, Jr., for several years, who must have used a part of the building for his jeweler's shop. At length the house became the property of Mr. Norman Williams, and he conveyed it to Horatio and Augustus Palmer, the 19th of April,

1834, who bought the place for their father, the Hon. Walter Palmer. The house still remains in possession of the family.

The next house was long the residence of the Sylvester family. As originally constructed it was a small, one-story building, having two rooms at least on the ground floor. About the year 1832 a wing to this building was put up, extending toward the street, and reaching nearly to the sidewalk. In 1853 Alonzo Barnes purchased the property and made some changes in the situation. The old building was removed to High Street, and the wing placed in line with the highway, remodeled and improved, and occupied by Mr. Barnes, who still lives there.

Ezra Sylvester was the son of Peter Sylvester, 2d, who was born in Scituate, Mass., in 1713. Peter 2d's father moved from Scituate to Leicester in 1720, and in that town Ezra was born in 1762. About the year 1787 he married Hannah Henry, daughter of Robert Henry, and in 1794 moved from Leicester to Charlestown, N. H., from that place to Hartland, and from Hartland to Woodstock in 1797, and set up the cabinet business. As early as 1801 he built the old house on this ground, and resided in it till he died in the spring of 1808.

Hannah Sylvester, his wife, was one of the remarkable women of a past generation. She possessed a wonderful gift of conversation, and talked during her waking hours with ease and fluency upon topics connected with the social gossip of the day, and never showed signs of fatigue. But what was rather unusual, the talk did not interfere with the work; that, whether it was sewing or knitting, moved on in the mean time without abatement or serious interruption. As the children were numerous and the family in straitened circumstances, Mrs. Sylvester, after the death of her husband, was obliged to exercise great diligence and economy. Herein she was assisted by her oldest daughter, Susan, who taught school much on the Green, and carried on the millinery business besides for several years. Susan was married to Calvin French, of Randolph, Mass., January 9, 1838; lived with her husband in that place till his death; then came to Hartland, and died in the house of Dr. Lewis Emmons, November 20, 1857. Jane, the youngest daughter, was married to Dr. Emmons, June 14, 1837, and lived in Hartland till her death, August 28, 1856. After those two daughters were married and had removed from Woodstock, the old home was broken up, and Mrs. Sylvester

herself went to Hartland, where she died at the house of Dr. Emmons, December 1, 1849, at the age of eighty-four years.¹

The house next below the Sylvester place was built by Zebedee French in 1805, who set up the "tanning and currying business" on this spot in the fall of that year. Events common, and a few uncommon in character, are connected with the existence of this house. In 1820 it was the subject of a sharp controversy between Willis Hall and Benjamin F. Mower, which may be noticed briefly here. August 28th, Hall advertised it for sale. September 4th, Mower put in a caution to the public, of which the following is a copy:—

"CAUTION.

" 'The large white house,' advertised for sale by *Willis Hall*, never was his property, and never will be until he shall have purchased and paid for it; altho he has a vendue deed, which he obtained in a *secret rascally* manner, when an agent for the owner.

"BENJAMIN F. MOWER,

"*Agent for the owners.*"

"N. B. Any person wishing to purchase a piece of woodland a short distance from the Court-House, can obtain a title from *Luke Landphire* with no other incumbrance thereon but another man's land lying on top of it, which will be equally as valid as a title from *Willis Hall* to "the large white house," in my opinion.

"BENJAMIN F. MOWER.

"WOODSTOCK, *September 4, 1820.*"

This proceeding on the part of Mower drew out a bitter retort from Hall, followed up with affidavits and much swearing on both sides. The house, the subject of so much dispute on this occasion, has since passed through many changes and improvements, and is now the property of Frederick C. Southgate.

The next house was a store-building at first, erected by Lyman

¹ A very good sketch of Henry H. Sylvester, one of the sons, may be found in the *History of Charlestown, N. H.* What is a little remarkable, he too died in Hartland at the house of Dr. Emmons, February 21, 1870. On the morning of the new year (1870) Dr. Emmons went into his room and, addressing him, wished him the compliments of the season. The old man, then very feeble, roused for a moment and said, "What year did you

say?" Dr. Emmons repeated, and then Sylvester, his memory kindling for a moment, went on to say: "Just seventy years ago, I recollect, I was in Woodstock, and I heard Judge Hutchinson pronounce a eulogy on General Washington. He stood in a window of Elisha Taylor's tavern and spoke to the people who were assembled in the street below." (Dr. Emmons, September 25, 1872.)

Mower in 1823. After having been used at different times as a store, tin-shop, printing-office, etc., it was purchased in 1860 by Judge Pierce and Benjamin Walker, who entirely remodeled it and made of it two comfortable tenements, the judge taking the westerly, Mr. Walker the easterly tenement. The next building is the schoolhouse of the Northeast District, now District No. 8, and is described elsewhere.

The brick house next below the bridge was built by Woodward R. Fitch in 1827. The house next below this is the tavern-building, erected by Captain Richardson in 1787, and first located in the Park. After being removed to its present site, when the Common was enlarged, it was sold by Captain Richardson to Charles Marsh and Jesse Williams in 1796, and by them to Moses Barnet and Elmer Darbe. It was painted red, and for some years was used for a tavern and store together, and then as a tavern exclusively till about the year 1822,¹ when it was turned into a dwelling-house. The brick building next in order was built by George and William Raymond, Jr., about the year 1807, and by them occupied as a store till the death of George in 1811. After that time it continued to be used as a store,² saddler's shop, schoolhouse, and so on, till at last Mr. Chandler, having become the owner of the building, made it over into a dwelling-house, and it was occupied some years by Henry Cushing, artist. In the spring of 1884, Mr. Cushing sold it to Mr. Fales, who made great additions and improvements on the place, and opened a hotel here under the title of "Park Cottage."

The brick house next below was built by Benjamin F. Mower³ in 1825; became the residence of Abraham Stearns in 1827, who occupied it about twelve years, and was then succeeded by Robert Barker. Mr. Barker resided here with his family till his

¹ *The Woodstock Observer*, January 5, 1822.

² By Justus Burdick, perhaps, and by Lewis R. M. Morse, Abraham Stearns, Benjamin F. Mower, Hayden & Dana, George C. Pratt, saddler, Mrs. Cook and Miss Bates, school-teachers, etc.

³ Benjamin F. Mower was once a prominent business man in this village. He was brother to Lyman Mower; came here seventy years ago, perhaps earlier; for a considerable period of time was actively engaged in mercantile pursuits, now in company with his brother Lyman,

then alone. Like the general, he took to the military, and rose to the rank of colonel. He was of a social temperament, fond of a joke, high-spirited withal; and though enterprising in business, did not get rich in trade, any more than other merchants in Woodstock through the same period. He finally left this town for the southern country, and while boating it down one of the rivers of Florida, in 1837, was drowned in the stream; made away with, as many thought at the time, for the sake of the money supposed to be in his possession.

death in January, 1870, soon after which event the family removed from Woodstock. The house stood vacant a short time, and was then rented for a year or two by Edward Dana. It was finally purchased by Dr. Jewett, dentist, and in 1884 it was remodeled and improved inside and out, and is now one of the most attractive buildings on the Common.

The barn attached to this house in former years was sold by George R. Barker to James Anderson, florist, in November, 1870, and removed by Mr. Anderson the 9th day of that month.

The house on the corner where Elm Street comes in was raised by Jacob Wilder in 1794. Wilder never finished the work on this house, but in 1798 sold it to Titus Hutchinson. It has received many improvements since that time, and still remains in possession of the family.

Central Street, as it now runs, was first laid out in 1800, by the Windsor and Woodstock Turnpike Company. Nearly up to that time all the space below the house of Artemas Baker, between the highway and the brook, was a waste, and mostly a marsh and pond of water. On the south side of the highway, extending from Artemas Baker's, or more properly Benjamin Swan's, house to the brook, the first building put up was the "red store."¹ After Roger Williams gave up business at this store in 1800, William Rice carried on trade there a few years; then, for a short season, about 1807 John Barr took the stand. In October, 1814, Sylvester Edson bought of Zebina Curtis, of Windsor, for five hundred dollars, the vacant land on the southerly side of the street, with the "old red store." His purchase extended to the foot of Mount Peg, and covered the gardens of the present stone houses, and reached up the brook as far as Cross Street. It had been entirely waste land to General Curtis during his ownership of it, for now some fifteen years. In December following, Mr. Edson began business in the "red store," in company with Eliphalet Dunham, and in course of five or six years, retiring from the partnership, was succeeded by Alexander Hutchinson. The lot to the east of the land bought of General Curtis, including the intervening space to the brook, Edson purchased of Charles Dana and Willis Hall, in the spring of 1820. That same spring he put up the first block in "Edson's Row," beginning at the east end of the block. In 1822 he built the second, third,

¹ See page 40.

and fourth blocks. The second and fourth he put up early in the season; then in October he removed the "red store" to the edge of the brook where it now stands, and built the third block in order, completing the work, so that the building was ready to be occupied in the following December. The fifth block in order of time was erected in 1827. It was called the post-office building for several years, and stood next above Amos Cutler's shop. This shop was a wooden building put up by Mr. Cutler in 1814, and was painted yellow. In 1831 Mr. Edson removed it to Pleasant Street, and erected two new blocks, one on the site of the "yellow shop," the other next above the post-office building, being the stone store, so called. To make room for the stone store he removed Major Swan's office to a spot he owned on Pleasant Street.¹ By this last piece of work "Edson's Row," as it was called,² was finally completed. The space between the Row and the edge of the pond, which till about this time had been mainly a waste of water, Mr. Edson filled up by degrees with dirt and rubbish, and made available land of it, and it is now covered with buildings.

Among the individuals and firms that first occupied these several blocks as places of business it will suffice to mention Nahum Haskell, bookbinder; Joseph Vaughan and Thomas Russell, jewelers; Hosea Kendall and Noah Fisher, Jr., tailors; Warren & Nute, saddlers; Stearns & Blake, Eli Dunham & Co., and Wardner & Sabin, dealers in dry-goods, groceries, etc.

On the 10th of February, 1860, nearly the whole of Edson's Row was destroyed by a fire which broke out in the garret of one of the buildings about eight o'clock in the morning, and by eleven o'clock the Row was consumed up to the Anderson Block, which was badly damaged and rendered unfit for occupancy. The following summer the present Phoenix Block was erected, which is scarcely surpassed by anything of the kind in Vermont.

Opposite Edson's Row, on the site of the Fairbanks Block, Elisha Taylor put up, in 1796, a building for a tavern. When the house was ready to be opened, he announced the fact in the following manner:—

VILLAGE HOTEL.

The subscriber hereby informs his friends and the public that he has erected a large and convenient House on the east end of

¹ See *Vt. Standard*, July 15, 1869.

² Or "Edson's Buildings."



EDSON'S BLOCK.

At head of Elm Street, in 1857. (Barker's Hotel on left, then kept by Gilman Henry.)



Woodstock Green, in the County of Windsor, for the purpose of keeping a

HOUSE OF ENTERTAINMENT,

by the name of VILLAGE HOTEL, at the Sign of the EAGLE, which will be open for the reception of Gentlemen and Ladies of all denominations, on Monday, the 19th day of December instant: Where on account of the largeness of his House, and the strictness of attention that will be paid to all denominations of people (especially travellers) [he] flatters himself that he shall give general satisfaction—for which Gentlemen and Ladies please to call and see for yourselves.

E. TAYLOR.

WOODSTOCK, December 14, 1796.¹

In addition to his business as an innkeeper, Mr. Taylor dealt in merchandise some, and to provide facilities for this latter branch of business, he put up, in 1807, a block on the site now occupied by Mr. Greene's block on Elm Street. The building was constructed with brick ends, having a store-room and small office on the lower floor, and in the second story a single apartment fitted out for a Masonic hall. This hall was occupied by Governor Smith and the Council during the session of the Legislature for 1807. Mr. Taylor kept a very good hotel for several years, then disposed of the property to various persons, in August, 1815. He was succeeded by Eliakim Spooner, of Westminster, who conducted the hotel till 1819, then sold to Robert Barker.

Mr. Spooner was among the first inhabitants in Vermont, having settled within the limits of the State prior to the organization of a State government. He was of a very social and companionable disposition, yet withal a man of stern, republican integrity, qualities that furnished him a passport to many of the

¹ This announcement of Taylor's called out the following poetic effusion from one of his fellow inn-keepers at that time established on the Green:—

Hark! on Woodstock Green
It might be seen —
VILLAGE HOTEL has risen up,
With anxious hope to blast my crop;
To starve me out of house and home,
That I upon the town may come
For daily food — or what is worse,
To be confin'd to Jon'than's house
And make my flock, as erst was stated,
From mother's womb regenerated.
But list my friends, my story hear —
I've rais'd a sign in open air,

Which represents nor less nor more
Than *flower'd bowl* on cupboard door.
I've hay and oats and stable room,
I wait on rich and poor that come;
I brush their boots — their horses card;
If they've no cash, I take their word;
And if in luckless hour I'm caught,
Without one drop to wet your throat,
I'll snatch my *Chunk* and stop no more,
Till I've it fill'd at Darbe's store.
You'll find me quick and smooth as honey
"Custom I want — 't is not your money."
If you will call at Farnam's Hall,
And wish a little sport, Sir,
Pray come and see, and you shall be
As happy as the Court, Sir.

WOODSTOCK GREEN, December 19, 1796.

responsible offices within the gift of the State. He was possessed of an original turn of mind, and it is understood that the aqueduct so much in use sixty years ago along this neighborhood and elsewhere, composed of logs perforated with an auger, was an invention of his. He died in this town, January 3, 1820, in the eightieth year of his age.

Robert Barker, who married Mr. Spooner's daughter, took possession of the tavern in 1819, and conducted it till 1835. He was born in Bradford, Mass., on the 1st of February, 1790. When about sixteen years of age he went to live in the family of Dudley Chase, of Randolph, and in 1806 he began to drive the stage which carried the mail from Randolph to Windsor, passing through this village on the way. His experience in driving this stage he used to relate with considerable animation. The starting-point was at Randolph. He rose in the morning at three o'clock, and the first thing was to waken the passengers. While they were getting dressed he harnessed the horses, hitched up, and drove to the tavern stand. Taking in the passengers, he then drove down to Royalton, thence speedily as possible on to Woodstock, and stopped at Taylor's Hotel. Here the passengers took breakfast, and here the driver changed horses. After breakfast, Mr. Barker, with a fresh team, posted forward to Windsor, where he met the stage from Boston and the stage up the river from New York. At Windsor he took care of his own team and had no one to help him, and making ready for his return, hurried back to Randolph that night, having traveled eighty miles, more or less, during the day. This course he followed up twice a week, summer and winter, for more than four years, in all sorts of weather; and no matter how severe the winter air might be, though thinly clad and holding the reins with bare hands, he never knew what it was to suffer from cold fingers or feet.

The first mail-carrier over the route on which Mr. Barker drove stage was Parret Blaisdell, of Montpelier; the second was Mr. Dewey, of Royalton; and the third was Mr. Barker himself, who obtained the contract about the year 1810, and retained charge of this important branch of business for many years.

It is in the capacity of landlord that Mr. Barker is best known in this community and throughout the State. His motto was, "Welcome the coming, speed the parting guest;" and his reputation as the most attentive of hosts soon spread in all directions.



ROBERT BARKER S. HOTEL, 1830.

Third story to L. part added by Mr. Whitney in 1836. Home of Judge Hutchinson on left.



This good name he preserved to the end of his career as landlord. In 1835 he sold the hotel property to Samuel Whitney, who retained control of it till 1856, when it passed to Gilman Henry.

The hotel consisted originally of a two-story building running east and west on Central Street, with a small, low wing, used for a kitchen, projecting from the west end northward. This wing Mr. Barker made wider and longer, and raised to a second story. On the main building he placed a third story for a dancing hall, about the year 1830, and built an upper and lower piazza on its south and west sides. Mr. Whitney, in 1836, raised the north wing to a third story, and built the hall over the woodshed. This hall Mr. Henry, in 1861, swung round to the east, on a line with Central Street, so as to be separated from the main building by a narrow passway, and added to it forty feet, making an extension of one hundred feet. From the easterly end of this extension he four years later ran out a building about sixty feet, connecting with the barn. On the night of the 23d of March, 1867, the whole hotel, including all this extended fabric, was destroyed by fire.

On the land between Edson's Row and the brook, the first building put up was the potash, by Roger Williams and Ellis & Smith. About 1803 John McKenzie bought this land, including half the water-power at the dam. The old potash he converted into a factory, with blacksmith-shop and trip-hammer in the basement. In 1806 he sold the premises to William Rice, but this trade falling through, in 1812 he disposed of the property to Thomas Witt. The trip-hammer, Witt, who was a blacksmith, held till 1819. He then gave up the premises to Paul Boynton, who, in March, 1820, opened a gun-shop here. John A. Swan came after Boynton.

The building, as originally constructed, was a wooden frame, but after Edson came in possession of it, in 1820, he laid up the front and west end with brick. In the upper room of this building as thus repaired, Benjamin Metcalf opened a cabinet-shop, where he continued the business till 1823, when he was succeeded by Fisher & McLaughlin. This firm employed a great many hands, and did more business than all the other cabinet-shops round about put together. With some changes in the firm they continued business in the old shop till 1835, when

McLaughlin built, next above the old stand, the block that still goes by his name, and occupied his new shop the 5th day of December in that year. Two years after this he left Woodstock, to take charge of the Clarendon House, Clarendon Springs, Vt.

The old shop on the corner continued Benjamin Metcalf's place of business so long as he remained in town, and here he invented and manufactured his celebrated printing-press.¹ The construction of this press was quite simple. The entire process of printing was performed by the application of water or horse power to the principal wheel, with the exception of putting the sheets upon the tympan and taking them off, which was done by hand. The cost of one of these presses, made to work with one form only, was about \$500, and it was found that an average workman, in the use of it, could easily turn off four hundred sheets an hour. Mr. Metcalf was successful in disposing of several specimens of his press, and it remained in use here and elsewhere for some time. He himself, in course of a few years, removed from Woodstock to the Southern country, and died at St. Mark's Lighthouse, the 3d of July, 1840.

Perhaps the beginning of the manufacture of musical instruments in this place was with Benjamin Metcalf and James Fisher, under the firm name of Fisher & Metcalf. They opened their factory December 7, 1824, in James Fisher's paint-shop, one door east of David Watson's printing-office. They manufactured all kinds of musical instruments, such as bass viols, flutes, violins, hautboy-reeds, etc. All the fine work was done by Metcalf, who was a superior mechanic, and the painting by Fisher. The partnership was dissolved in a short time, but Metcalf continued the manufacture of musical instruments to some extent as long as he remained in town.

But a more special branch of business in this line was the manufacture of piano-fortes, which sprang up about 1836, and continued quite lively for a few years. Ezra F. Steele, the first to establish the business here, came to Woodstock from Springfield when about sixteen years old, and went into the shop of Fisher & McLaughlin as an apprentice to the cabinet-making business. Having served his apprenticeship, he went to Boston and entered a piano-forte manufactory. While thus employed he conceived the idea of setting up this branch of trade in

¹ Nearly correct. He was established on the opposite side of the brook for a while

Woodstock, came back here, and, in company with Henry Lawrence, began, in 1836, the business of making pianos. The firm met with unexpected success, and made and sold a large number of instruments. A rival establishment was soon started, under the management of William P. Greene ; but, after continuing the business about two years, Greene gave it up and went away. The firm of Steele & Lawrence dissolved, June 27, 1837, when Lawrence retired, and Steele took into partnership Edward Badlam, Jr. After running about four years longer, the concern closed up, and Steele went back to Boston.

The brick block on the corner, next to Edson's Row, was built by Blish & Roby, in 1830, who moved into it in December of that year. On the 14th day of the same month Theodore T. Locke opened a grocery and bakery in the basement of the building. Conspicuous among the attractions of this establishment of Locke's was the presence of Simeon Sankey, village barber, a very remarkable man in his profession. Mr. Sankey was high-toned, — the prince of colored barbers. When on the street, he was always well dressed, especially in respect of the shirt-bosom, which was ruffled, and full and flowing ; about the best-dressed man in town was Mr. Simeon Sankey. He was fond of handsome conveyances also, and never drove less than a span of horses, sometimes two. After a few years he removed from Woodstock to Claremont, from there to Hanover, and in due time found his way to Northfield, where he died. But to the end he continued true to Simeon Sankey.

On the east side of the brook, where now is the stone blacksmith-shop, in former times stood a long building, painted red, erected by Amos Warren for a tannery in 1804. In the east end of this building was Warren's dwelling-house, occupied by him till the brick house was built on Pleasant Street. Mr. Warren carried on a successful business here as tanner for some forty years, and then the concern was wound up. The building stood unoccupied for several years, and became troublesome, when, in 1852, the people living on High Street subscribed to have it removed, and it was removed to South Street, where it was made over into a dwelling-house, and occupied by Horace Swan.

On the site of the engine-house stood, sixty years ago and more, a blacksmith-shop occupied for quite a length of time by

Thomas Danforth. This was made over into an engine-house, which was torn down in 1883 and replaced by a better one. The house next below was built by John McKenzie in 1805; possibly sooner by a year or two. Like many other tenements put up in those days on the Green, it combined a dwelling-house and shop in one. The shop was in the basement, and was used a part of the time for a cabinet-shop, and in 1825 by J. H. Roby & Co. as a tin-shop. About the year 1840 Colonel Russel bought the place, and made the house over, which he occupied till his death. In 1877 John Cone purchased the property, remodeled the house throughout, and made it into quite a fine residence.

The house next below stands on a lot purchased of Charles Marsh by Dr. Gallup in 1806, and sold by the latter, in 1814, to Sylvester Edson. Soon after the purchase, this house was put up for Mr. Edson by Captain Paul, of Hartland, who took the job.¹ The house was considerably repaired in 1877 by Mr. Howes, and in 1885 completely remodeled by Mr. Woodruff, the present owner.

Next below this house stood for many years a building put up by Dr. Gallup as early as 1806, for tenant purposes, and rented for a long while to different persons. Abraham Stearns occupied it when he first came to Woodstock in 1821. Several years later Thomas Danforth rented it, who had quite a family of children, among the number Henry, Frederick, Mortimer, Helen, and Mary. The family all removed from Woodstock some time ago. In 1872 this house was taken down by Mr. F. N. Billings.

The brick house next below was built in 1829 by William Rice. The inside of this house was finished off by Mr. Crooker, assisted by Hosea Doton. In 1833 the place was sold to Edwin Hutchinson, who resided here several years. In more recent times it was occupied by Mrs. Leonard, milliner, and in 1872 was purchased by Mr. Jennings, the present owner and occupant.

The plastered house next below was built by Joseph Churchill about the year 1813; occupied by him till his death, and is still retained in the family.² Mr. Churchill's paint-shop was near by.

¹ Deacon Jacob Fisher.

moved to Elizabethtown, N. Y. The

² July, 1886, it was sold to Mr. F. S. McKenzie, and the last of the family re-

building itself is to be removed to the easterly end of Pleasant Street.

Here in old times the road turned off towards the north, and passed in front of the ground on which Mr. Foster's barn stands. On the site of this barn was once a house, situated "on the south side of the highway," built by the Randalls as early as 1788,¹ and occupied by William Randall till 1793, who then sold to Moses Barnet, describing the place in the deed as "the plot I now live on." The house went by the name of the Barnet House for some years, but in 1800 it was occupied by William Rice, sheriff of Windsor County, merchant, etc., who continued to reside in it till his departure from Woodstock about the year 1810. In 1814 Caleb Simmons moved into the house, then in 1817 John Blish purchased the premises, described in the deed as a triangle containing seventy-one square rods. On the vertex of the triangle he built his red shop, which he used as such for some years, then moved further up the street and nearer the centre of business. The shop was after that used in part as a schoolhouse for a long time, till in 1845 Jonas G. Tribou bought it of the Blish estate, with a small piece of land, and occupied it as a dwelling-house and wheelwright-shop. A shanty, attached to the east end of the shop for the accommodation of Mrs. Wales, Tribou took away; it was removed to Parks Street, back of Edson's Row, and made over into a dwelling-house, where for a long time lived Mrs. Canary, with her blind husband and her fowls.

In 1868 Tribou inclosed his grounds, and within the inclosure started a grove of trees. He died in 1881, when the village purchased of his estate the building and lot and converted the grounds into a park. The old red shop Charles M. Perry took and removed to the lower end of Pleasant Street and made over into a barn. That part of the triangle not sold with the red shop Mr. Blish conveyed to Amos McLaughlin in 1826, together with the Barnet house. This house Mr. McLaughlin tore down that same year, and put up the brick house now occupied by Mr. Foster.

On the opposite side of Central Street, at this point, are four brick houses in order. The first was built by John Blish in 1822; now owned and occupied by Hosea V. French. The next was built by David Pierce, mechanic, in 1826, still occupied by his descendants; the next by Hull B. Witt, and the fourth, in-

¹ See a map of Elijah Bailey's farm, drawn by Joel Matthews in 1788.

cluding the blacksmith's shop, by Thomas Witt, Jr. At this point in Central Street is the entrance to Lincoln Street, which was permanently opened and extended to its present limits in 1868. The house at the end of the street, back on the hill, was put up that year by Mr. Ford, while the first house to be erected on this street was built in 1842 by Henry T. Marsh.

The block of buildings on Central Street, next above the blacksmith's shop, was built by Humphrey Miles in 1829 on land purchased of Sylvester Edson, and here Miles the same season opened a cooper's shop at the sign of the Barrel. He began business in this town October 4, 1824, in the "old red store" on the bank of the brook, behind Edson's Row, and was reputed an excellent mechanic, but not skilled, as some said of him, in getting a good price for his work. He was succeeded in the wheelwright business by Henry T. Marsh, who took the stand April 11, 1836.

Next above this block stood in former times on the high bank of the hill a small, one-story house, built by Daniel Marsh about the year 1806. Mr. Marsh lived in this house till 1822, then moved out, and in the fall of 1823 Jacob Fisher occupied it for a short period. It was afterwards the residence, for a while, of George W. Rice, and the last occupants were the Misses White, maiden ladies. In 1872 the house was taken down by William H. H. Slayton, who put up in place of it the two-story building now standing there.

The brick house next above was built by Nathaniel Waldron, jeweler, in 1824, on land purchased of Sylvester Edson. Nathaniel Waldron, Jr., came to this town from Hartland, and was doing business here as early as 1811. There was no jeweler's shop on the Green when he first came. His two apprentices were Joseph Vaughan and a young man by the name of Freeman, who was a dwarf. Waldron's shop at first was probably in the building on the west side of the Common, in which he lived, but June 5, 1815, he leased of Amos Cutler the east room on the lower floor of Cutler's yellow shop, opposite Taylor's Hotel. Here, at the sign of the Watch, he kept his jeweler's shop, till the building was removed in 1831. After that date the shop was kept in a small wing adjoining his dwelling-house on the west, and here his last work was done. He died April 22, 1840, at the age of fifty-one years.

Between Waldron's house and the one on the corner, now occupied by Mrs. Hayden, stood formerly a small plastered house. This house used to stand on the northeast corner of King's meadow, near the line of the railroad track. It was built by Dr. Richardson about the year 1790, and is the house in which his son Chauncey was born, February 20, 1793. After Eben King purchased the Richardson farm, it was removed about 1810 to this location. No fence was set up around it, but all was open space, and in front was a well, which still continues in use. In the month of June, 1831, by some mysterious process, the tongue to the "White Meeting-house" bell left the spot where it was wont to hang, or was removed therefrom, and disappeared. Several years after this singular circumstance occurred, David Lamphear was one day cleaning out this well, when, quite unexpectedly, at the bottom of it he found the said tongue snugly buried in the mud. The plastered house itself has been removed for a long time, and the land it occupied converted into a garden.

The brick building on the corner was put up by Sylvester Edson in 1821, and used at first as a shop. In 1825 Simon Warren occupied the upper part for a paint-shop, and Bradbury the lower part as a wheelwright-shop. In 1829 the building was made over into a dwelling-house by Jacob Fisher, who also built the barn adjoining.

High Street was first opened and laid out in 1825 by Charles Dana and Amos Ralph, selectmen. Previous to this the highway had been built up some, and a bridle-path or pent road existed for many years before the street was opened. All the land on the side hill was once included in Jason Richardson's pasture, and the present entrance to the street was shut off by a fence, with bars set up to let the cows in. This was the situation of things as late as 1814. After the second house on the west side of the street was built, a gate was put up just south of that house, through which was the entrance to the pasture. This gate was moved back by degrees, till it stood beyond Cross Street, and finally it was taken away altogether.

The house next above the brick house on the corner was built by Mr. Edson, and occupied by Jonathan Weymouth, tailor, first, perhaps, who left it early in the spring of 1825,¹ and moved into a new house further up the street; after that it was occu-

¹ *Land Records*, vol. viii., pp. 437, 495.

pied by Walter Palmer, and in later times by Mr. Tewksbury, painter. The brick house next above this was built by Thomas McLaughlin in 1824, and he resided here some years, then John N. White, painter, occupied it. The building next beyond the brick house was raised in the fall of 1823 by David Pierce, mechanic. The year following James Fisher, painter, bought the place, and Edson put up the barn there; then in 1825 Mr. Fisher took possession of the house; in recent times it was occupied by Jonathan Russell, painter. The twin houses next above Russell's were erected by Joel Eaton in 1850 on land he purchased of John N. White. One of them occupies the site of a small, plastered house, in which Luke Landfere lived as early as 1807, it being the first building located on the street.

The house on the west side of the street, nearly opposite McLaughlin's brick house, was built by Rensselaer D. Granger in 1830; it was occupied many years by Joshua Mitchell. The road, as first laid out, did not extend much beyond this point. Mr. Edson made his first purchase of land along the line of High Street in 1821, but this purchase extended only to the stone wall running easterly from Oil Mill pond up the north half of Mount Peg. Afterwards he bought of Titus Hutchinson the rest of the land south from this wall, over which High Street is now spread, and in 1825 buildings began to be erected on this last purchase.

The second house on the west side of the street was built by Jonathan Weymouth, who moved into it in the spring of 1825, before the house was finished. The outbuildings Mr. Weymouth put up the following summer. On the edge of the pond was a blacksmith-shop carried on by Simon Warren, in which Ebenezer Spaulding was the workman. Beyond the fence which crossed the road at Weymouth's house two building-lots were laid out that same summer, and the cellars were dug and stoned by Ebenezer Hutchinson. This man came from Quechee in February, 1825, and took rooms in No. 4 Edson's Block, up-stairs, where he executed copper-plate printing and sold "essence of smoke" for curing hams, and also made maps, some of which may still be seen about the village.

The house next above Weymouth's was built by Smith Miller. About the year 1840 it was purchased of Simon Warren by Loring Richmond, who occupied it till his death in 1881. Mr. Day's house, next above, was built about the same time with

Richmond's. The trees in front of these two houses were set out in 1840 by Loring Richmond and Bushrod Russel. The house next above Mr. Day's is a modern structure, built by James H. Murdock in 1857 on contract with William T. Washburn, who sold the premises to Charles R. Tait, shoemaker. The house next above this was built by James H. Murdock in 1858. However, many years ago this spot was the residence of Mrs. Amelia Bradish, colored woman. Her first abode was a sort of shanty or dug-out, leaning against the bank, and fixed up for her by Samuel Jenkins. This shanty, Milly, as she was called, much improved by degrees, using her own earnings for the work, and lived quite comfortably here for some time. But the title to the land where she lived was in Mr. Edson, and when he died Milly lost the benefit of her improvements.

Here was the end of the street till recent times, but gate and fence that once closed in the highway at this point have been removed, and buildings and improvements of various kinds have been extended for some distance beyond. Opposite the site of Milly's house is the residence of Simeon C. Dunham. This was originally the old part of the Sylvester house that stood on the Common till 1853, when it was purchased by Loring Richmond and James H. Murdock. At the same time they bought of Judge Hutchinson a piece of land at the south end of High Street, and removed the old house to this spot. They dug the cellar themselves, and most of the work done in repairing and putting the building in shape they performed with their own hands. In the fall of the same year they sold the house to William Paine. The small house next below Mr. Dunham's was once a barn belonging to Mr. Mann. In 1866 this barn was made over into a dwelling-house by T. J. Slayton. The double tenement next below was built probably by Mr. Edson about the same time with the Richmond house. Dr. Chandler completed his new dwelling-house on this street in 1877.

Cross Street, which extends from High Street to South Street, was opened in 1851, and all, or nearly all, the buildings on the line of it have been erected since that time. Sixty or sixty-five years ago there was but one house on South Street, and that the house recently owned by Mrs. Mack. Great improvements have been made on this street within the last twenty-five years. In 1868 Linden Street was laid out and built, and the first house on

the street was raised that year by George White, and finished in another year.

The highway which is now occupied by Church Street was first opened in 1812, but no buildings were erected on this highway for several years after. In 1823 Sylvester Edson leased of Dr. John D. Powers a portion of the slope above the pearlash, extending along the south side of this highway, on which three tenements soon went up. The first of the three to be built stood nearly opposite the Universalist Chapel. It was occupied by the colored folks. After standing thus occupied some twelve or fifteen years, it became a trial to the neighborhood, and in consequence was visited one night by a band of men, about forty in number, and incontinently torn down. So swift was the work that time was not allowed Mr. Freeman to get even his best furniture out. The tenement next below this was built by Ezra Lacount, with the help of Mr. Edson. In the cellar of the house Lacount kept his cow. This building has been much improved, and is now owned and occupied by Mason D. Farwell. The house next below was built by Jonathan Weymouth, village tailor.¹ It was greatly improved by Dr. Thomas E. Powers, who died in this house after having lived in it many years. It is now the parsonage for the North Universalist Society.

The house opposite the Episcopal Church, now the property of Lewis Pratt, was built in 1833 by John H. Roby. Mr. Joel Eaton built his house in 1831. The spring was remarkably early, and the laying of the brick was completed by the 15th day of April. The building next above Mr. Eaton's was put up, according to Colonel Russell, by Orlando Sargent, in 1830.

On Church Hill great improvements have been made since 1830. All the buildings from the foot of the hill up to the old Dr. Powers stand, including Mr. Lockwood's very handsome residence, are comparatively modern, or have been renovated within a few years past. The brick house near the top of the hill, on the south side of the road, was built by the venerable Judge Keyes. The highway on the westerly side of the Quechee, leading from the upper to the lower bridge, is called River Street. Until the year 1828 there were between these two bridges but three houses, nor was there much attempt to build

¹ Mr. Eaton told me all three of those houses were standing in 1827, when he first came to Woodstock.

up and improve this street till 1836. At that time the tract of land extending from the Barber house to Mr. Bryant's belonged to a man living in Derby, by the name of Davis, son of Sampson Davis, who formerly lived in this town. This tract was purchased by Russel Streeter, Nahum Haskell, and others, who proceeded to erect buildings on their new purchase at once. Mountain Avenue was opened in 1851-52, and all the buildings on this street have been put up since that date. In the neighborhood of the mills stood, at a very early date, the small red house behind the well, which was designed and used for the miller's house. The red house at the foot of the hill, where the roads meet, was built by Asa Jones in 1827. On the easterly slope of the hill stands the house formerly occupied by Luther Briggs, now by Mr. Jaquith. Where the garden is spread out was once a sandbank, from which was taken all the sand used for making mortar in the vicinity. Such was the foundation on which Mr. Briggs placed the covering of earth which he caused to bloom with flowers of every hue, so that it was the delight of all the town. Below and adjoining this garden stood for thirty years or more a building which was formerly the counting-room of the store of Jesse Williams. This building was occupied by Mrs. Betsey Barrows, who lived here alone for twenty-five years or more, and here died in 1851. Her husband, Thomas Barrows, lived for some time in the first house in Woodstock south of the Bridgewater line,¹ and was a man of rather eccentric ways, to say the least. He occupied for a while half the building on Handy Hill which Barnard Handy improved for a tailor's shop; that is, he had all the space from the centre of the chimney to the west end of the building, except the chamber, and the use of the "fireplace and cubbord;" likewise, the cellar underneath. But finding the quarters close, Barrows presently moved to Bridgewater line, on the main road, and settled there on a farm of fifty acres, bought of Charles Marsh. Not far from the year 1800 he "went down below," as people called it; that is, to the great hive below or south of Boston; viz. Plymouth County, and particularly Middleborough, in that county, a town which sent to Vermont hundreds of emigrants, and a great proportion of the early settlers of Woodstock came from that vicinity. But Thomas Barrows, who went off with horses and other property

¹ See page 28.

to sell, for the purpose of raising means to pay his debts, seemed to have forgotten his creditors, as well as the way back, and never returned to Vermont. Rumor was current for a while that he had been murdered; but eight or ten years after his disappearance from Woodstock he turned up in New Orleans, and from that time till about ten years before her death, Mrs. Barrows constantly cherished the idea that her husband would come back to visit her, at least. It was her dream by night and her vision by day; and she did not give up the idea even after she heard he was married again. She said she should think he would like to come, and bring his wife with him, and visit his friends in Woodstock, and she would like to go with them to Stowe, to visit friends there. She was perfectly reconciled to his bringing his second wife with him, if she could only see *him* again. She would willingly wait on the second wife, and defer to her, and would sacrifice all rights and feelings of her own, if she could see Thomas Barrows once more; and she expected to find him in 1840 as trim and straight and blooming as he was at the close of the last century. Such untiring constancy is rarely found; and yet she could not have been always the pleasantest wife in the world, as one might infer from occasional displays of temper. But in spite of all her failings, she was a good and pious woman. Her means being limited, Mr. Williams gave her the use of the house in which she lived, and neighbors and friends supplied her, besides, with many things necessary for her comfort and support. To these charities she added something, also, by her own labors in making and mending clothes. After her decease, the house was sold to John W. Bradley, who removed it to where it now stands on River Street; and this, perhaps, ends the travels of the old counting-room.¹

The house at the foot of the hill, occupied by Mr. Marble, was once a blacksmith shop built by Mr. Ford. The first year Mr. Woodward carried on the factory he used this building as a dry-house, and then converted it into a dwelling-house. The building standing next below the old mill-house was a tannery to begin with, and stood on the side of the pond, just above the saw-mill.

¹ Mrs. Barrows was the sister of Paul Sears. She was born Aug. 20, 1768; her husband, Thomas Barrows, was born June 19, 1768, and they were married the 20th of August, 1797. They had two children; Jane, born Aug. 9, 1798: died, May 29, 1824 (headstone reads, May 31); Thomas, born Dec. 21, 1799; died in infancy.

Eventually it became the property of Ira Powers, who, in 1846, moved it to where it now stands, and made it over into a dwelling-house. The brick house was built by N. K. Jones, in 1842. The house formerly occupied by Mr. Tinkham was built by Jonathan Walton in 1826, who also put up the barn on the premises in 1823. The long house opposite Mr. Tinkham's was built by Asa Jones, who came to this town in 1821. He first occupied the Malt house, so called, which stood where now is Mr. Woodward's office. Luther Edson was then living in the mill-house, Isaac N. Cushman, Esq., in the stately establishment on the corner, next to the mills. The land belonging to this establishment had on it, at the time, two gardens, an orchard, and a maple orchard. In these grounds Cushman used to stroll during the intervals of business, and if the weather invited, being of a literary turn, he would sit down awhile and seek amusement or instruction in the pages of some favorite author; selecting, perhaps, a volume of Priestley's "Lectures,"¹ perhaps some other book. This might be reckoned the happiest period of Cushman's life. In December, 1821, he moved to Hartland, and Mr. Jones then occupied this house a short time. In 1825 he built the west end of the long house, which was occupied at first by Otis or Joel White, who had charge of the slaughter-house at the easterly end of the bridge. In 1831 Mr. Jones built the kitchen to this house, took possession of the premises in 1833, and occupied them the rest of his days.

The two-story dwelling-house on the opposite side of the street was built by Daniel Marsh about 1830. Mrs. Day's house stood on the Pine-Tree Lot, so called, of which the only landmark now left is the pine-tree itself. Built by Dr. Standish Day, after his death, in 1799, it was the residence of his widow for many years, and here she died, the 10th day of September, 1852. The house was torn down in 1865. The Pine-Tree Lot now belongs to Luther O. Greene, who has recently erected upon it a very handsome and commodious brick house.

The Wilder Raymond house consists of three distinct edifices. The front part of the long building extending towards the street is the house, or a part of the house, in which Marshall Mason once lived; moved to its present site about 1832. The wing that extends westerly was built the same year, by Hosea Perry,

¹ The very book he was reading, Nov. 6, 1821, as he sat in these grounds.

for Mr. Hitchcock. Wilder Raymond occupied the premises in 1840, and that year built the extension to the Mason house running towards the mountain. He began the work the 10th of November, employing fifteen hands, and finished everything up before the winter set in. June, 1870, the house received a second story. It is now the residence of William D. McMaster.

Marshall Mason's house stood back a little from the site of Mr. Boyce's present brick house. It was built by Dr. Stephen Powers, about the year 1792, when the doctor gave up the home on the hill to his son Stephen. After that date this house was his home till he died, in 1809. In the spring of 1808 he sold the hill farm to John Briggs, and Stephen, Jr., in the fall moved down to the doctor's house, with his family, and occupied the place till 1817, when he broke up and went to Cincinnati. The house and a few acres of land were then sold to Oliver Williams, who lived here till his death, in 1823. In 1826 Mr. Mason bought the place, and occupied the old house till about 1832. He then took the main building, tore away the woodwork, bricked up the frame, and renovated the premises throughout. The house, thus made over, was sold to Moses Fairbanks in 1842, and one warm night in the month of June, 1845, it was burnt, together with a two-story dwelling-house just below, belonging to Wareham Miller.

The house next below Mr. Boyce's was built by Nathaniel Randall, in 1849; the next by Wareham Miller, in 1845; the next by Wales Carlton, in 1860. Mr. Carlton never occupied his house, but died, the following year, in Boston; and the building, after standing closed for some time, was sold to Asel Holmes. The small dwelling opposite Carlton's was originally a meat-house standing on Wareham Miller's farm in Pomfret; moved down on River Street, April, 1828, and located on the westerly side of the road, where the currant-bushes are in Mrs. Miller's garden. It was occupied by Mr. Miller and his family till he built the house that was burnt in 1845; then Samuel White lived in it awhile, and then James (or "Jimmy") Davis. It was afterwards moved to its present site by O. A. Bryant. The two new houses next above this were put up by Sabin Daigle. The next house was built by Mr. Hildreth, about 1836. At that time he had charge of the grist-mill at Mr. Denison's. He died in 1837, and the place was occupied by O. A. Bryant.

Mrs. Ransom's house was built by Philo Hatch, about 1846, as was also the house above that, so much improved by Francis W. Clarke. The brick house on the corner was built by Nahum Haskell, in 1837, and was his residence till he died, October 18, 1867. It still remains in possession of the family. The house next above was built by James H. Murdock, in 1841, who moved into it the same year, then sold it, a few years later, to Peter T. Washburn, Esq., by whom it was afterwards much improved.

Peter Thacher Washburn, of whom it is proper to speak briefly here, was born in Lynn, Mass., September 7, 1814. His father, the Hon. Reuben Washburn, moved with his family from that State to Chester, Vt., in February, 1817; thence, after a short stay, to Cavendish, and from Cavendish to Ludlow in 1825, where he died April 23, 1860.

Peter T. Washburn graduated at Dartmouth College in 1835; immediately thereafter began the study of the law under the tuition of his father, a thoroughly read lawyer, with whom he remained, excepting an interval of three months spent in the office of Hon. William Upham at Montpelier, till admitted to the Windsor County bar in 1838, at the December term of the court. January 1, 1839, he began the practice of the law at Ludlow, where he remained till the fall of 1844; then moved to Woodstock and opened a law-office in the three-story brick building on Elm Street, in company with Charles P. Marsh, Esq. This proved a permanent connection, and the firm of Washburn & Marsh was not dissolved till the death of the senior partner, in the winter of 1870. In the month of October, 1844, Washburn was elected by the Legislature reporter of the decisions of the Supreme Court, and for the next seven years was annually reëlected to the same office. In 1853 and 1854 he represented the town of Woodstock at Montpelier. In October, 1861, he was appointed adjutant and inspector-general of Vermont, and retained this important post till the close of the war. By the general consent of the people he was elected in 1869 Governor of the State, but died before closing his term of office, February 7, 1870, after a lingering illness of several weeks.

General Washburn took a high stand in his profession. He was a good citizen also, contending at all times, earnestly and fearlessly, for what he regarded as the best interests of the town,

and — what is rather high praise as the world goes — he made it a matter of principle never to object to his school-tax or his minister's tax.

The double tenement above was built by Oliver H. P. Miller in 1836. The land on which the old schoolhouse stood was conveyed to the district July 29, 1839, and the schoolhouse built about that time by Nahum Haskell. In 1867 it was sold to Nathaniel Randall, and made over into a dwelling-house. The building next above was set there by Amasa Huntley. Before occupying its present site, it stood on Pleasant Street, nearly opposite the Brick Church, and was moved to this spot one winter season many years ago by Hosea Perry, who, in the matter of engineering and conducting operations of this sort, never had his equal in our community.

“There must have been,” says Mr. Williams, “among some of the early inhabitants of what is now the village of Woodstock, a passion for the sports of the turf. Horse-racing was so well esteemed by them that a portion of the highway, viz., the present River Street, was dedicated to that use and purpose. By what counsels or by what engineers this work was designed and by what hands it was done tradition does not tell, and inquiry with relation to the accomplishment of the enterprise has led to no reliable information. The horse and the rider have passed away and no history is left of them. At a time when the forest skirted the street and extended to almost low-water mark in the river, a broad public highway was cut, the line of which is the road as it now passes the tomb in the cemetery, the direction and extent of which can be ascertained by taking the course of that road commencing at the small brook near Mr. Myers's house and running up the river eighty rods. This course and this distance will give a terminus at the southerly end somewhere near the schoolhouse by Mrs. Raymond's, or perhaps a few rods below; but from the upper part to the brook by Mr. Myers's was a broad, straight way. It must be noticed that the river has been made to encroach on its westerly bank to such a degree that its channel now passes over where the road once ran towards its lower extremity. The wall of the burying-ground was, as it now is, the westerly boundary of the road, and the road was so wide as to contain two distinct tracks, and was cast up in the middle, along which line ran a walk for foot-passengers, which

was always worn and well trod. The horses were taken upon these two tracks, and were so far apart as not by any possibility to interfere with each other, and could not cross from one track to the other. The whole was a very graceful and pleasant drive-way, and no accurate idea of it can now be formed by looking upon the ground, as the whole of the track nearest to the river has been carried away or appropriated to private use by the land-owners above and below the burying-ground. The wearing away of the western bank was caused by Judge Hutchinson's persevering enterprise in making land for his meadow. Wall and embankment were projected into the stream at an expense more than his whole meadow was worth, and the land which he gained was taken away from the public. This was suffered to go on without opposition or remonstrance. When quite too late a suit was commenced by the town, but the statute of limitations had run and the case was so confused by conflicting testimony that the jury were puzzled and could not agree on a verdict and gave the matter up. It should have been mentioned that the portion of highway prepared and arranged as has been mentioned was called the 'Race Ground,' and often now goes by that name.

"The beauty and the direct and straight course of the Race Ground met with their first enemy in Captain Ebenezer Barnes, a burly, full-grown pretender of great things, who came to town in a phaëton and drove up to Taylor's tavern one moonlight summer evening in 1804, in company with Zaccheus Ellis, then of Providence, who introduced him to his friends here, and particularly to Mrs. Day, the widow of Dr. Standish Day. Barnes was called a sea-captain and rich. He married Mrs. Day, bought the Powers farm, built a high board fence on the highway, turned the road at the southerly end of the Race Ground, and thus deformed it, stayed about here, riding in his phaëton drawn by white horses as long as *they* lasted, exploded in 1807, and ran away, remaining here long enough to do some mischief and to have three children by his wife, viz., Sullivan, Ebenezer, and Standish. After he was gone it was discovered that he had a previously married wife living, and there was a deal of trouble, family and financial, on account of the untoward incoming and exit of this great piece of living bombast. He would not be mentioned here, were it not that he was the first of the Goths and Vandals who invaded the Race Ground and marred its beauty as a public walk

and driveway. The next attack which the Race Ground received was from the water side. A piece of meadow land on the south and opposite side of the river was purchased by Judge Hutchinson of Dr. Stephen Powers in the year 1804. [November 4, 1801.] The water of the river inclined to the south bank, and there was an eddy on that side so deep that a man was once drowned in a place now thirty yards from the river. But on that side the proprietor of the land, ostensibly to protect his land from the approach of the river, built a stout breastwork of rocks and timber and made a permanent abutment and break-water which turned the current of the river directly against the northern shore.¹ By the gradual wear and washing of the stream the highway on the west side was undermined so that for some rods more than half of the traveled road was swept away. The east track and the footpath in the centre were carried off, and only the west track, which ordinarily was but little used, was left, and that is where the road now runs. So strong was the apprehension that this gradual invasion would extend to the burying-ground, that the selectmen caused a suit to be commenced for redress, but the suit was settled before any decision was obtained, and there has been no further wearing away of the bank for years."

At the lower end of River Street all the land on the west side of the road, to the foot of the hill, now covered with houses, was once a bog and pond of water. On the east side were three houses: the one recently owned and occupied by John W. Brad-

¹ The following, taken from the *Washingtonian* for April 25, 1814, may throw light upon Mr. Williams's statement above:—

"MR. POMEROY, — There is a writer in the *Vermont Republican* under the name of a 'Farmer.' By his matter and manner of writing I suspect he is a 'Woodstock Farmer,' that I am acquainted with. He is a very religious man and calls himself 'one of the guardians of the people.' I will tell you one circumstance and then you may judge what sort of a guardian he is of his neighbors' rights.

"A part of his farm (for he really has one of about two acres) lies in the bend of our river and is principally *made ground*. He wanted to become a great 'Farmer' as well as a great Friend to

the people. So what does the 'Squire — I mean the 'Farmer' — what does he do last summer, but goes and, under pretense of clearing the channel of the river, runs a dam some ways across it in the bend, so as to have the current set strong against a poor neighbor's opposite bank, that it may cut it out and land it on his side, where it will do *more good*, by being where it may be owned and cultivated 'by a [real] Farmer.' Will you ask your *Republican* neighbor if his 'Farmer' does not live in Woodstock; I suspect 't is the man. — Woodstock, April 14, 1814."

September, 1804, Titus Hutchinson paid Paul Brewster \$2.29 for work on "Experimental wall by river."

ley, Mr. Myers's house, and a house at the foot of the hill, formerly occupied, perhaps built, by Theophilus Rickard. One of the twin houses, recently made over by Mr. Billings, was put up by Dexter Anderson, about 1847. The other houses in this neighborhood were mostly, if not all, built since 1857. The cluster of houses on the hillside were, in the main, constructed by James H. Murdock, or by others for him and under his direction. Some of these houses have been greatly improved within a few years.

Elm Street was opened in 1797, by Charles Marsh and Jesse Williams, as a private enterprise, and the first building to be erected on the new street was Mr. Charles Marsh's law-office. This must have been previous to the year 1800.¹ At first it stood on the site of C. Dana's brick store, and in 1806 was removed from there to the corner of the "Meeting-House Lot." This remained Mr. Charles Marsh's law-office as long as he lived; likewise it was used as the office of the Windsor County Fire Insurance Company, and the probate-office, till 1873 and 1874. The next year it was sold to B. C. Bagley, of Bethel, who removed it to Pleasant Street, near the depot, where it was used as a grain-store some years. In April, 1880, it was purchased by Oliver T. Hatch, and placed at the east end of Pleasant Street, where it now stands, having been made over into a dwelling-house.

The next building erected on the street was the schoolhouse, fully described elsewhere. In 1801 John Carlton built, or rather began to build, his house on the corner, where Major Benjamin Swan afterwards lived, and where he died in 1839. Soon after the building of the house, Carlton put up a brick shop just above it on the highway, in which he carried on his business of saddlery and harness-making. After his death it was occupied by Simon Warren as a saddler's shop till he moved over on Central Street, in 1821. After that time it was variously occupied as a store, the State Treasurer's office, probate-office, etc. In the second story Amos Cutler opened the

"WOODSTOCK SHOE STORE,"

August 17, 1812, and in exchange for his several sorts of merchandise agreed to take "almost any kinds of country produce except *promises*." These same apartments were used in after

¹ George P. Marsh.

times successively for a milliner's shop, schoolroom, dwelling-house, etc., till finally the building was taken down in 1852, and part of the material employed in constructing the Methodist parsonage on Mountain Avenue. In 1802, Charles Dana, with the aid of General Allen, of Walpole, put up the building that has now been enlarged into the Tracy Block, and in November of that year the firm of Allen & Dana began business in this store. Solomon W. Burk built his house in 1806, afterwards owned and occupied by John A. Pratt. In 1807 Charles Dana built his house, Nathaniel Smith being the architect. The house is still in possession of the family. In 1808 John C. Dana built the house next below Taylor's Block, with four-sided roof, like the house opposite, and having the upper story a little higher between the beams than the lower. In the rear of the building was the cabinet-shop.

Dana was accounted a good workman, and skilled in the art of making sash-cornered, serpentine, and ogee sideboards, elliptic card-tables, etc. Furthermore, he was a quiet sort of man, disposed to live at peace with his neighbors, and averse to meddling in politics, but did get angry sometimes. Yet, it is proper to observe, there may have been grounds and reasons with him for an occasional outbreak in this direction, which cannot be set forth here. In the month of May, 1806, he married Miss Polly Carlisle, of Walpole, N. H., a lady of great energy of character, and, withal, entertaining peculiar notions as to what constituted perfect bliss at the fireside. By her he had three children,—two sons, and, for the third child, a daughter named Sarah, who married a Mr. Cooley, and settled in Michigan. Of the two sons, one died in Vermont, the other settled in Rochester, N. Y. John C. Dana himself died in 1813, of the lung fever. The house and lot then became the property of Simon Warren, and still remain in the possession of his descendants.

The house recently occupied by Dr. Boynton was built by Job Lyman, in 1809–10, who, in 1833, disposed of the establishment to Colonel B. W. Rice. In 1849–50 the house was enlarged and improved by Andrew Tracy, Esq., who a few years later purchased of Mr. Marsh and laid out into very handsome grounds a piece of unoccupied land adjoining his house-lot on the north. In 1887 the premises passed into the possession of William E. Johnson, Esq., who has remodeled the interior of the house, and greatly improved it in every respect. The same year Mr.

Lyman sold to Colonel Rice, he built the house next above, now owned and occupied by the Misses McCollom. The three-story brick building next above the Tracy block was put up by Sylvester Edson, in 1810, in connection with Titus Hutchinson. The southeast corner-room became Mr. Hutchinson's law-office, while the storeroom on the same floor was occupied by S. Edson & Co. The second story was appropriated to the use of the Vermont State Bank.

In 1821, David Pierce, Esq., erected the brick house on the corner where Pleasant Street comes in, occupying it till 1856, when he sold out to Julius Converse, Esq. At the time he built this house, and for some years later, a Virginia rail fence extended from Mr. Pierce's lot to the bridge, with bars set up in two places on the way, and all the space from the lot to the river was unoccupied and clear. This inclosure was used for storing cattle over night, or longer, purchased round about on the hills by the traders in the village, and collected here for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements to drive them to Brighton market. In 1826 Jasper Hazen built the brick house next below Judge Pierce's, it being the same year he built the brick church. The house was occupied by Dr. Burnell the following year, and so on till his death in 1847. It was afterwards owned and occupied by Lorenzo Richmond, and is now the property of his widow.

The Congregational parsonage was begun for the committee by Henry B. Dana in 1828; finished and made ready to be occupied in November, 1829, when the Rev. John Richards moved into it. Considerable repairs were made on this house in 1872, and ten years later Mr. Billings took it in hand, and built it anew, so to speak, extending his improvements to barns and the adjacent grounds, and expended some fifteen thousand dollars in adorning and beautifying the premises.

The house next below the parsonage was built by Elder Hazen in 1832; now owned and occupied by his son, Dr. Edwin Hazen, who has made considerable improvements on the place. The house next below was built by Eliphalet Dunham in 1827, who resided here about thirty years, and then removed to New Hampshire, and in 1860 the place was purchased by James B. Jones, who has made things look better every way, since he became the owner of the premises.

The brick house on the opposite side of the street, now occupied by George R. Chapman, was built for the Misses Aylwin in 1829, under the superintendence of Henry B. Dana.

The house next above the Misses Aylwin's was built by Henry B. Dana in 1828, who lived in it first, then Benjamin Swan, Jr., till 1841. It now belongs to the estate of Charles Chapman, deceased. The double tenement above this was built also by Henry B. Dana in 1834, at a cost of about \$4,000.

The brick house next above was built by John Dunbar in 1833, perhaps the year before. It was occupied one year or more by R. D. Granger. Hon. Jacob Collamer moved into it from Royalton, April, 1836, and occupied it till his death in 1865. He made great improvements in the house and grounds from time to time, and it is now one of the pleasantest situations in the village.

Work was commenced on the old bank block August 1, 1833, under the charge of Simon Warren. The stones used in constructing the vault were drawn from the Knox ledge, and some of them were quite large, one weighing seven tons and another five. Wills & Bartholomew had charge of the stone-work, and the last of it was done April 25, 1834, when Wills worked half a day putting up the door of the vault. Mr. Warren's account with the bank shows the cost of that part of the work he did to have been \$1,162.44, less \$3.17 for stone sold by Warren. This building was burnt in the great fire of March, 1867, and the block was rebuilt the following summer by Philo Hatch in connection with Norman & Geo. W. Paul.

The brick store next below the Tracy Block was built by Charles Dana in 1820; was occupied by him and by his son Charles in succession till the death of the latter, July 5, 1884; now occupied by Harold S. Dana, of the third generation.

Pleasant Street was opened in 1807. In 1811 the street was straightened, from its intersection with Central Street eastward to the foot of the hill, by Jabez Bennett, director for the Windsor and Woodstock Turnpike Company. The South Branch, which crosses this street a little below its connection with Elm Street, was more copious fifty years ago than it now is, and ninety years ago afforded good mill-privileges from Cottle's Mills to its mouth. Its course over the flat on which the village is built was in early times very winding, and a considerable portion

of the land on both sides of it very swampy. That part of the meadow above Cross Street was much of the year given up to water, and the liability to overflow extended to the grounds on the Common, so that the land in front of Mr. Williams's house and the stone buildings often would be covered with a sheet of water, affording in the winter season fine skating-fields for the boys. When the Common was leveled in 1830 and the Park inclosed, this space was filled up with earth, so that the surplus waters from the brook were shut off.

The freshets in South Branch are still formidable, but they were more so sixty and seventy years ago. As early as 1807 Jacob Wilder and Luther Harris built a dam near the mouth of this brook and proceeded to put up a mill for the purpose of sawing freestone. The mill stood a little northwest of the present tannery. The brook at that time made a curve where the dam now is toward the northeast, then turned northerly into Dr. Hazen's garden and struck the head of the old fish-pond there, and following the course of this pond somewhat, soon found its way into the river. The dam was erected within the limits of this garden and faced the north, so that the waterfall could be seen from Mr. Marsh's house on the hill. The freestone worked up in the factory came from a quarry on the North Branch, in Bridgewater, belonging to Jesse Williams. In September, 1808, soon after the works were fairly started, Wilder sold out to Harris his interest in the land on which the factory stood, embracing about four acres, "including the saw-mill and dam and privileges." About the same time Harris built the house on the street, now owned by Mr. Clapp, occupied it, and carried on his mill-works with reasonable success till July, 1811, when an accident occurred which put an end to this piece of industry. On the 22d day of that month occurred a most disastrous flood in the South Branch and in Quechee River, which caused a great deal of damage, especially on the line of the river. The water rose very high in the brook, and by the violence of the current broke over and through the bank a little above Wilder & Harris's dam and took a straight course to the river. No effort was made to repair this breach in the bank, and Mr. Harris's mill-privilege was consequently ended, though some water still flowed in the old channel.¹

¹ From Pleasant Street the road to the mill passed in front of Harris's house to the bridge over the brook, which stood a little below and northeasterly of the

The house on the premises, after Mr. Harris left it, was occupied by Dr. John Burnell for some time, during which period it was frequently in danger of being carried off by floods in the brook. To check the violence of the current at this point a high stone wall was built by Mr. Charles Marsh along the water's edge in front of the house. After a few years it was found that the stone wall did not stand well and was bilging in places, and to save the wall from being undermined the dam was put up in 1824 by Mr. Marsh, where it now stands.¹

To the dwelling-house, originally built by Luther Harris, Dr. Burnell added, for an office, the building in the rear, which at first set back more on the hill than now. Deacon Fisher added an extension of nine feet to the main building, and moved the office out, so that it cornered with the other part instead of lapping over.

The shop at the dam was built first by Jasper Hazen, who had a water-wheel in the lower part, and manufactured wheel-hubs here. He had a borer which bored the hubs with a tapering hole, so that they would not check in seasoning. This was considered quite an institution at the time. The upper shop was let to different persons for various mechanic purposes. About the year 1828 Nahum Haskell printed, in this upper shop, a quarto edition of the Bible, from second-hand stereotype plates, using a press invented and manufactured by Benjamin Metcalf. The shop was burnt Tuesday morning, December 31, 1839. In 1843 it was rebuilt by Isaac M. and George Fisher. The old dam was carried away by a flood in 1856, and immediately rebuilt. The shop and water-privilege are now the property of B. F. Standish, who conducts the tannery near by.

In 1832, Jasper Hazen, having become the owner of the West Meeting-House by gift and purchase of the proprietors, had it removed to this spot, and converted into a tannery. The

house. The space on which the mill stood was called, after the flood, "the island," for some years; as Hosea Harris relates. He further relates that his father, after this factory was thus broken up, went to Bridgewater, where the quarry was, or in the vicinity of it, and set up another stone-factory, which, after two or three years, was also swept away by a flood, costing him \$2,300.

well recollect hewing the timber near what they called *Pogue Hole*, and boarding at Dr. Burnell's near the dam. The trees were very large hemlocks and had been blown down; there were three bed sticks about forty feet long and fifteen inches square; the others for apron I think were twenty-four feet [long] and twelve inches square." (Ludlow, March 29, 1869.)

¹ Sewall Fullam, Esq., who adds: "I

first persons to carry on this tannery were George G. Clement and Aionzo B. Chillson. It was sold in 1836 to Humphrey Miles, then, the next year, to William Barron, of Alstead, N. H. Jasper Hazen, Jr., carried on the works for a while, then Alvan Taylor, who sold to Perkins & Standish. This tannery was burnt on the morning of the 17th of September, 1873. Mr. Standish rebuilt after some delay, beginning work about the 24th of August, 1874, and in place of the old wooden affair put up a substantial brick building, with greatly increased facilities for doing business.

In 1810 Winslow Phelps, in connection with his sons Henry and Cephas, bought of Charles Marsh about an acre and a third of land lying along the bank of the brook "on the north side of the new street leading from the meeting-house." These were well-to-do farmers residing in the southerly part of the town, where, besides farming, they did business to some extent, and carried on an ashery before coming to the Green. They put up a potash on the north side of the road, with a store in the east end of the building, which butted directly against the bank. This store part stood on the site of Mr. Standish's present dwelling-house. On the part of the high bank included in their purchase they put up a house, in which some of them lived. When they began, their credit was first-rate, and they did a good business the first three years; but unluckily made a great many bad debts, which used them up in the end.¹ After carrying on trade a few years in their shop at the potash-building, they put up the long store; but this was a bad move again.²

In the spring of 1818 the father and Cephas retired from the business, and left Henry to carry it on alone, who continued one year longer, and then failed up. Lyman Mower took the stock of goods, while Norman Williams disposed of the real estate for the benefit of creditors. The dwelling-house he sold to Zebulon Lyon, the potash to Mower & Burdick, and the store-building to Rufus Colton. After being thrown out of business here, Henry Phelps went West, and died in October, 1821, on his passage in the steamboat from Cincinnati to St. Louis. The old potash,

¹ Gen. Lyman Mower.

² Mrs. Joseph Churchill says that Phelps & Co. kept the best tea and coffee to be found at any of the stores about. Thinks Phelps put up the dwelling-house in 1814,

and the long store perhaps two years later. The father, Winslow Phelps, did not favor the plan of building this long store; that was Henry's idea. (June, 1870.)

after being given up by the original owners, still hung on for years, outliving all the other asheries in the village, possibly in the town. It survived its usefulness or its fitness and adaptation to the times, and came at last to be voted a nuisance. Finally, in March, 1849, Philo Hatch sold to Lorenzo Richmond the potash lot, "on which stands, or recently stood, an old potash." Jasper Hazen, Jr., tore down the old shell, removed the ruins, cleared up the spot, and built a house on the renovated grounds, in which he resided for some years. The place is now owned and occupied by B. F. Standish, who has made it over into a very fine situation.¹

The house opposite Mr. Standish's, now the residence of F. N. Billings, was erected by Amos Warren in 1808. The house itself and the grounds about have been greatly improved and beautified within a few years past, and show what wealth can do by way of adornment, when directed in its expenditure by taste and good judgment. The same may be said of the place next below, owned and occupied by F. S. McKenzie. The house was built by Henry Lawrence, in 1836, but to the eye of the beholder familiar with its original aspect not a vestige of the old house remains. But perhaps no street in the village has improved more than Pleasant Street within the past few years, nor would it be an unpleasant task to discourse briefly of the several houses that line the street, describing when they were built, and by whom, and other matters of interest relating to the growth and improvement of this part of the village; but it is necessary to hasten on.

Near the lower end of the street stands a plastered house built by Ebenezer King, mechanic and farmer; a plain, substantial, hard-working man, yet one of the worthies of his time. Eben King was brother to Jabez King, who bought Jesse Williams's farm on the hill. He was born in Bridgewater, Mass., May 23, 1780, and grew up like most boys of that period, roughing it along as best he could. His first attempt on his own hook was to set up a little forge in his native town, at which he made

¹ To the older inhabitants of the village, who recollect how things looked on this spot fifty-five and sixty years ago, the change in the situation to-day is not an unpleasant one. Then the yard, even into the highway, was piled with wood

and rubbish of all sorts; the potash itself smudged and smelt awfully; while the east end of the building was often occupied by populous families of white folks and colored folks, who did not add much to the beauty of the landscape.

wrought nails. His next was to try the tanning business, with his brother Jabez; but this he gave up after a short trial, — “could not stand the smell.” He therefore apprenticed himself to Nathaniel Smith, and learned the carpenter’s trade, which henceforth proved his chief occupation, although he gave, in the mean time, considerable attention to farming. In the first years of the present century he purchased of William Rice his farm and lands situated at the easterly end of Pleasant Street, married Priscilla Gray, daughter of Billy Gray, about the year 1802, and settled down for life. At the time of his purchase Lysander Richardson’s house was standing on the premises, a little west of Hewitt’s barn, and the old road ran between the house and the high bank of the river. In this house William King, the eldest son, still living (1886), was born eighty-two years ago. The first winter after his marriage, there being not much to do at his trade, Mr. King kept school in Cherry Valley, “the other side of the mountain,” but after that time he devoted himself entirely to his trade and the cultivation of his farm.

About the year 1810 Mr. King built his plastered house, which, with some improvements, is still occupied by the family. The old building opposite this house was first Nathaniel Smith’s carpenter’s shop, and stood by the east end of his house, now Lorenzo Kent’s. When Smith sold his place, previous to removing from town, the Emersons bought this shop, thinking to move it down to their farm and use it as an outbuilding of some kind. On the way, the machinery gave out in the endeavor to pull through the mud, and the building stuck just above Mr. King’s; whereupon the Emersons got sick of the job, and sold the shop to Mr. King. At first he placed it on the north side of the road, close by his house, then moved it to the opposite side, where it now stands. The outside of this old shop would convey to the beholder but little idea of the amount, variety, and good quality of the carpenter’s work or other work of similar nature which has been done, and faithfully done too, within its four walls.

In April, 1823, Mr. King sold Abraham Stearns and Royal Blake about one acre and a quarter of land on the south side of the road, adjoining Mr. Chapin’s farm, having a front on the turnpike of thirteen rods, and extending up the hill some distance. Here they built the distillery-house, which is the one

now occupied by Mrs. Anderson. Above and a little to the east of the house, and twenty rods from the road, they put up a large distillery, at which they made great quantities of gin. The casks and barrels in which this gin was put up were manufactured by Humphrey Miles, and were of first-class make. The distillery stood six years; then, Sunday morning, November 1, 1829, between the hours of twelve and one o'clock, it took fire and was burned to the ground. The long barn, and the wood and sheds contiguous, were saved. The ruins stood on the hill-side for years, till at length they were removed, and some part of the material was used in erecting a slaughter-house near the mouth of South Branch, but it was long before all traces of the distillery were lost.¹

At the foot of the street, in place of the office-building now owned by Oliver T. Hatch, once stood a brick house built by James Emerson, 3d. After the Emersons moved away, Simeon Washburn occupied the house, and Moses Bradley boarded with him. Bradley set up pottery-works in a blacksmith-shop that stood on the corner opposite, and made earthenware of various kinds, getting his supply of clay from the bank near by. In 1823 Cyrus Clement was occupying the house and carrying on tan-works here. His tannery at first was located near the line of the high bank where the brook flows into the meadow; afterwards he moved it up the brook to the south side of the road, just over against the Washburn house. His tan-works remained here till 1829, and then he changed his place of business, and went up to the neighborhood of Mower's Mills.

Mr. Clement, while occupying this house, passed through one rather alarming experience. This was on occasion of the great flood in Quechee River and the brooks along the valley hereabouts, which occurred September 4, 1828. It commenced raining Wednesday, the 3d, kept on till Thursday, the next day, and during Thursday night the rain fell in torrents, the streams rose and swelled beyond bounds, and destruction and waste seemed

¹ Mr. Stearns once told me, he never engaged in any sort of business he did not like, except the affair of the distillery. This at no time went well with him, and when George Rice told him that night (Nov. 1, 1829) his distillery was on fire, a feeling of relief came over him at once. When the alarm reached Judge

Denison's house, the Judge started forthwith for the seat of the fire, but after getting to the top of the hill, and discovering that it was the distillery burning, he turned back home to his bed. "Would have nothing to do with putting out that fire."

imminent in every direction. The alarm-bell was rung and people flocked to the various points of danger. The brook flowing by Mr. Clement's residence passed under his barn, and presently, as it began to be filled up from the rain, the passage under the barn was not ample enough to afford way for the flood, the waters choked, and rising up, swept around and through the house, threatening general ruin to the establishment. Roused from his sleep by the sudden onset of the waters, Mr. Clement shouted lustily for help, and the neighbors coming to the rescue got him and his family off without any harm, but the buildings and household effects suffered severe damage.

In 1830 Isaac Tribou moved into this house. He added the wooden part, which he set up in the rear of the brick house, on the line of the brook. Afterwards William Billings swung it round to the south side.¹ On the opposite corner Tribou put up the brick building, which he used at first for a carriage-shop, then about 1836 converted it into a dwelling-house. Mr. Tribou's wife was named Priscilla Smith. She was born in New Salem, Mass., January 5, 1776, and was the eldest of eight children. Her father's name was John Smith, who married Priscilla Thomas, youngest sister of Elias Thomas, formerly of this town. Smith was one of the actors in Shays' Insurrection,² in consequence of which he was obliged finally to leave his native State, and fled to Syracuse, and nothing was heard about him for eight years. As he did not make any provision for his family, they came to be very destitute, and Mr. Thomas went down to New Salem in 1800 and brought back to Woodstock his sister, Mrs. Smith, with five of her children, Priscilla being one of the five. Her first winter here Priscilla spent in Mr. Thomas's family; after that she spent about one year in the family of Jabez King. On the 3d of January, 1805, she was married to Isaac Tribou, and then Tribou began life as a tavern-keeper in what is known as the Miller House, in Pomfret, which he built in 1804. In the winter of 1809-10 he came to Woodstock again, occupying Mrs. Chapin's house, and after that the home of the family continued in this town till a very recent date. Mrs. Tribou survived her

¹ On the night of February 19, 1880, this building was consumed by fire.

² Died Capt. Daniel Shays at Sparta, N. Y., aged 84, an officer of the Revolutionary Army and the leader of the in-

urrection in Massachusetts in 1786 and '7, commonly called Shays' War or Shays' Rebellion, etc. (*Woodstock Observer*, November 1, 1825.)

husband several years, and died in this village at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. King, on the morning of the 5th of April, 1870, aged ninety-four years and three months. Her career was as checkered as commonly falls to the lot of those who move in the sphere of life she occupied, but in all changes and in all her varied experience she sustained an unblemished character. In company with several others she united with the Congregational Church, in this village, on the 19th of July, 1801, and through the long term of her connection therewith she preserved a good report and bore a good Christian name and reputation.

On the slope of the hill, descending westerly towards the village, lay the first farm purchased by Captain Israel Richardson in Woodstock. It contained one hundred and six acres, and for many years was esteemed one of the most valuable farms in the town. As early as 1782¹ the captain built a house on this farm. It stood on the south side of the road, then running over the hill several rods northerly of the present course, and on the opposite side stood a barn, the rafters of which were of unequal length, one side slanting down almost to the ground. The house itself has long passed away, but the barn is still standing. In the spring of 1784 Captain Richardson moved down to the Green, leaving the hill farm to his son Israel, Jr. As early as 1789 the son was keeping tavern in this house. Against one corner of the barn stood the sign-post, on which hung an ordinary tavern sign, decorated with some kind of emblem, and bearing the inscription, "Entertainment by I. Richardson." This tavern was well reputed and well kept for many years, and traditions still survive concerning the curious scenes and events which occurred at Israel Richardson's house of entertainment during its palmy days. But when the Windsor and Woodstock Turnpike Company laid their road over Hartland Hill, they passed considerably south of the old road, and these buildings were left a hundred rods out in the fields. Israel Richardson does not appear to have taken out any license as tavern-keeper after the year 1799, and in 1802 the farm was sold to Andrew Thomas. On the south side of the road, as it now runs, Mr. Thomas built a house, and his cider-mill stood on the brook near by. Afterwards he moved the house to the opposite side of the road, in front of the barn still known as the Thomas barn, where it was occupied several years by his

¹ Winslow's Account Book.

son, Bezer A. Thomas. In the month of December, 1863, this house took fire in broad daylight and was burnt.¹

The two farms lying below the bend of the road at the extremity of Pleasant Street were originally taken up by William Powers. James Emerson, who took from Powers the southerly part of his large tract, occupied at first Powers's log house, but in 1790-91, in connection with his son James Emerson, Jr., he built a large two-story house on the high bank of the meadow a little northerly of Prosper Merrill's new house. It was painted red, was occupied by the several proprietors of the farm till 1834, and after that by various tenants till 1859, when it was taken down by Mr. Blake. The elder Mr. Emerson was a man of remarkable industry even in those laborious days. He was small of stature and wiry, wore a three-cornered hat, and rode a fast pacing nag in his latter days, that proved in the end the death of him, giving him a throw, from the ill effect of which he did not recover. His daughter Elizabeth married John Smith Hoisington, and the couple were blessed with a large family of children, after the fashion of the times. John was a smart, active man, with a keen black eye, and not a lazy bone in him. After living in Woodstock a few years he moved to Bridgewater, but did not make much headway for some time. To get through the year at all, he was obliged for successive winters to bring his family down to father Emerson's, where they stayed till spring. Finally he left Bridgewater and moved to Ohio.

James Emerson, the son, after the death of his father, about the year 1800, carried on the farm and improved it till 1817, when he sold to Samuel Wardwell, of Bristol, R. I., and went to Ellisburgh, N. Y. In 1822 Wardwell sold to Darius Blake, who proved one of the most industrious and successful farmers that ever lived in Woodstock. In 1834 Mr. Blake built the stone house on the farm, drawing the stone from Nathan Cushing's lands on the opposite side of the valley, and the old red house was left to its fate. After the death of Mr. Blake in February, 1862, the farm was carried on by William Blake till his death in 1867, and the next year it was purchased by Prosper Merrill, of Reading, who sold in June, 1876, to Benjamin S. Dana, of Brighton, Mass., the present occupant.

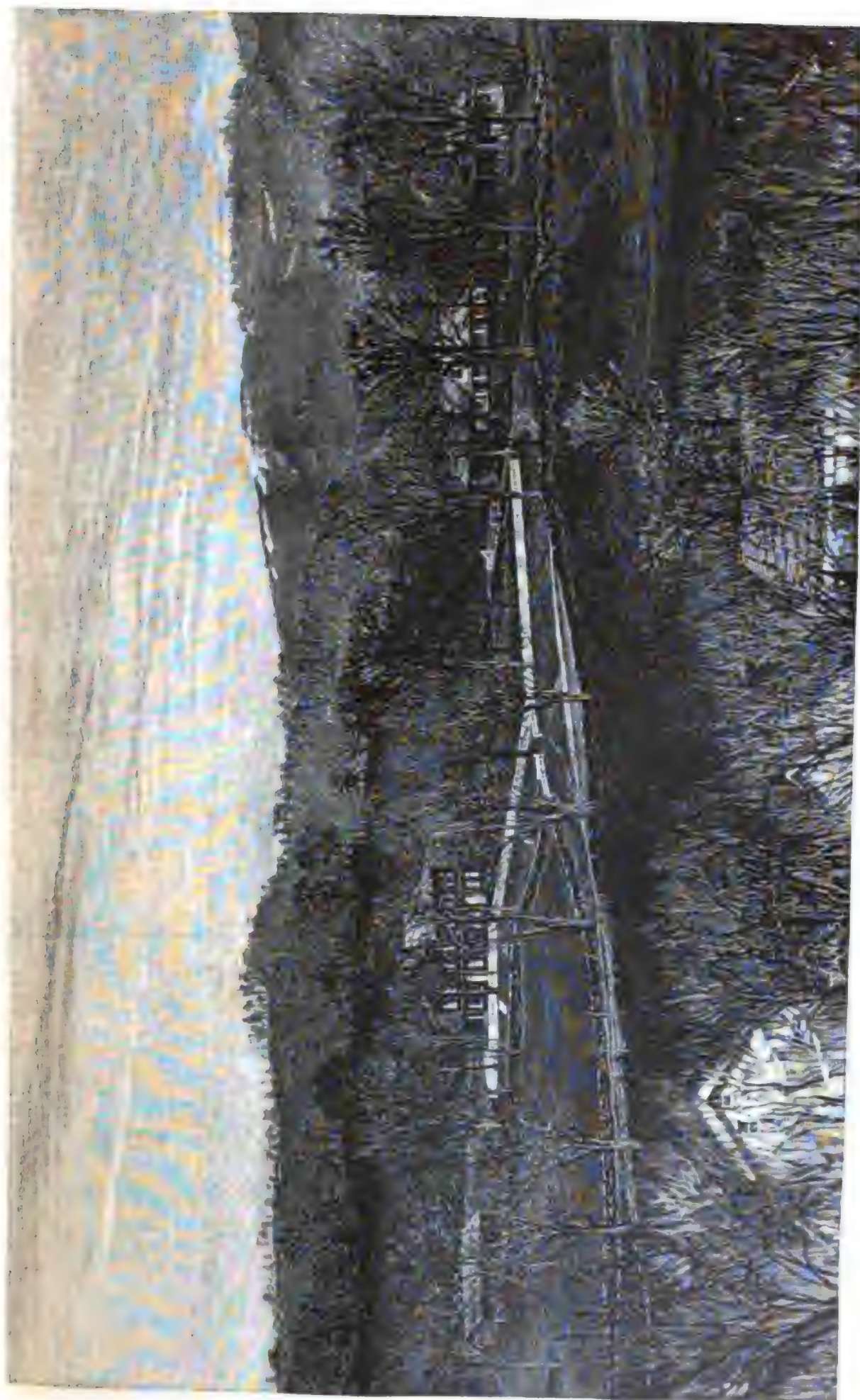
¹ For a sketch of Captain Israel Richardson, see *Vermont Standard*, October 11, 1861.

On the 29th day of August, 1774, William Powers sold Elias Thomas a lot of land, "beginning at the Eston Bank of Worter Quechee River next to Lot No. 173, where the river enters the south line of Lot 173." This is the farm now occupied by Charles M. Perry. Mr. Thomas came to Woodstock the year of this purchase, or, as Mrs. Hazen expressed it, the year before the battle of Bunker Hill. He boarded and lived with William Powers, till he obtained a house of his own, which was accomplished about the month of May, 1777. The building he then put up is credited with being the first framed house raised in town, and the first to have glass set in the window-frames in the place of isinglass, the material then commonly used. Mr. Thomas remained on this farm till 1817, then moved to Middlebury, N. Y., where he died the 24th day of February, 1820.

After Mr. Thomas moved away, the farm was managed by Elder Jasper Hazen some years, and then was carried on by John Dunbar. This Mr. Dunbar had a son Daniel, who was a bright, intelligent lad, well received among the boys of his own age. He fitted for college, and graduated at Dartmouth in the class of 1838, studied law and settled in Grand Detour, Ill., as practicing attorney and as editor of the "Register," a paper published in that village. But he was soon cut down, probably by the swift fever of that climate, and died in Grand Detour, October 2, 1842, at the age of twenty-four, with many regrets expressed by the community over the loss of so promising a young man.

Presently Mr. Dunbar disposed of the farm to David Pierce, Esq., and it was carried on by his brother, Deacon Dana Pierce, for about sixteen years. The deacon was then obliged to vacate the premises, and the farm was turned over to Jason B. Pierce, the judge's son. But Jason preferred a ranch in California to a farm in Quechee Valley, and soon abandoned the place, whereupon the judge, having no further use for his landed estate here, disposed of it to Mr. Hawkins, of Hartland. Mr. Hawkins soon sold to Messrs. Hatch & Johnson, they to Charles H. Blossom, Mr. Blossom to Henry C. Johnson, and now the farm is carried on by Charles M. Perry. Below C. M. Perry's is the Gallup Place, as it is still called, which was owned for many years by Dr. Joseph A. Gallup, and is one of the oldest farms in the town.

Turning westward at Mr. Perry's, and crossing the Quechee,



CHARLES MARSH'S HOUSE, BUILT IN 1806.
The Cottage to the right being his residence from 1790-1807.



we come upon the domain of Mr. Billings, formerly the estate of the Hon. Charles Marsh. The first point occupied by any settler in all this wide estate, so far at least as is known, was the lower meadow, which we have now reached, bordering on the river. Tradition alone gives any memorial who these first occupants were, and that very indistinctly. The land itself was owned at an early date, as it would seem, by Ebenezer Call, who may have occupied it awhile, but this is uncertain. On the brink of the upper terrace of the high meadow, directly in front of Mr. Billings's mansion on the hill, once stood a house, esteemed among the first erected in this neighborhood. The cellar and other relics of this house were to be traced till within a few years. The stone used for the underpinning was the same kind of rock as that blasted from the ledge near the brick house by Charles Marsh, a short time before he sold the premises to Mr. Billings, showing where the stone came from. The people who occupied this house built in the first place on the lower meadow, but being driven out from there by the floods in the river, moved, for greater security, to this upper terrace. Their names are not known, neither is it known whether they were squatters or owners of the land.¹

It is also handed down by tradition that the first burial in the town was made on this same lower meadow, near the river bank. There was a family of Dikes living near by, but perhaps not on the meadow. An old gentleman, member of the family, died in the summer season, and they buried him here, as yet there being no burial-ground set out anywhere in the town. They had not learned, so far, much about Quechee River; thought it a small stream, little likely to overflow its banks, and supposed they had chosen a secure resting-place for their departed friend. But when the next spring came, a flood in the river came with it, and the ice tore away this grave so that not a trace of it could be seen.²

At the annual March meeting in 1781, it was voted that there be a pent road from John Hoisington's to John Strong's mill.

¹ While Dr. Lewis F. Gallup, in 1820, was living in Cincinnati, somewhere in the vicinity he fell in with a family of Smiths, as he called them, who told him either that they, or that their ancestors, once lived on Charles Marsh's meadow in

Woodstock. They may have been connections of John Smith Hoisington, who once owned a portion of the meadow.

² Mrs. Joseph Churchill, who received this from a Mr. Perkins.

The farm-house that once stood on the elevation near the Fair Ground was built at an early day by Mr. Marsh, who selected this site because it gave a commanding view of all the meadow round about, and in general of the whole farm. It was built for and always occupied by tenants, and was removed in recent times by Mr. Murdock.

The noble stone wall, covered on the top with broad, flat stones, that extended formerly from the old carriage-house to the highway, and so on down around the knoll, was laid in 1814. Some portion of this wall still remains. About 1820 Mr. Marsh planted two rows of elm-trees along this knoll, but most of the trees died, the land not favoring the elm. The fine row of elms extending from near the bridge up over the hill was set out under his direction in 1808. When the fancy for Lombardy poplars spread through this village, about 1806, he had a row of them set out in front of his house, a little removed from the stone wall. This fancy, however, did not continue a great while, but long after the tree had disappeared from the rest of the village two or three of those in Mr. Marsh's enclosure could still be seen waving their tops in the breeze.

When Mr. Marsh first bought the Cady farm there was no well on the place. Upon moving into his first house he thought to get his supply of water from a spring back in the garden, but this did not succeed. He thereupon had water brought to his house by means of pump-logs from a spring on the north side of the hill, over against the mill-pond. This was the first aqueduct laid anywhere in this region. The well by the west side of the brick house was dug about fifty years ago, and has always thus far yielded a supply of the best of pure water.

After Mr. Marsh took possession of his new brick mansion, the old house was occupied first, in 1808, by Henry B. Brown, who remained in it about four years. After a considerable interval of time it became the residence of General Asaph Fletcher and Colonel B. W. Rice, who occupied it till about the year 1833. Not long after this it became the property and residence of the Rev. B. C. C. Parker, rector of St. James Church, who made various extensions and additions to the old house, in different directions and in peculiar style of architecture, till the building came to present in its exterior as many angles and projections as did the house once built by Professor Crosby near the



NORTHEAST VIEW OF MARSH HOUSE.

As reconstructed in 1869 and 1885 by Frederick Billings.



college buildings, in Hanover, which, for long years, stood on the hillside, an object of curiosity and perplexity to the observer, but is now taken away. In 1839 Dr. Parker put up in the rear of his dwelling-house a school-building, in which he opened a "Female High School" in October of that year. This school, which was designed more especially for fitting young ladies to become teachers, was kept up with varying success for a brief season, and then died out. Soon after the winding-up of his school, Dr. Parker removed to the neighborhood of New York, where he died about 1857; and in 1859 this piece of property was bought of the heirs by Charles Marsh, Jr., and so became once more a part of the Marsh estate. Ten years later Mr. Marsh sold his lands in Woodstock to Frederick Billings, Esq., who has gone on since that time in making additions to his original purchase, and improvements on the same, till, at length, in extent of territory, in the variety and orderly arrangement of the several parts of this wide domain, and in the convenience and elegance of the buildings erected thereon, his home on the hill has come to resemble one of the baronial estates of the old world, and may be regarded as not surpassed in these respects, and in beauty of situation, by any similar establishment in New England.

Mr. Marsh, before disposing of his farm and lands to Mr. Billings, sold two house-lots on the meadow, just below Elm Street bridge. The lower of these two lots was taken by Isaac M. Fisher, who built, in 1866, the house he still occupies on this lot. The other was taken by Benjamin F. Mason, painter, a person of some celebrity in his profession, of whom a brief notice may here be given.

Benjamin F. Mason was born in 1804, in the adjoining town of Pomfret, where he lived till about twenty-one years of age. He early displayed a talent for drawing, which he exhibited in various ways, especially in rude designs outlined on bits of paper or pieces of wood, and it is said that the rough boards which lined the walls of an unfinished chamber at the old homestead were covered with charcoal sketches, drawn from time to time, as the inward spirit prompted him. About the year 1826 the family moved from Pomfret, and settled in Woodstock, while Benjamin F., at nearly the same time, left the family roof, going first to Montpelier. He had by this time decided to be a portrait-painter, led to such choice solely by the bent of his own

mind, and going greatly against the wishes of the family, who were quite opposed to his entering upon such a course of life. The prospect was, indeed, anything but encouraging. His general education was but slender, not extending much beyond the little he had been able to pick up in the common schools, and in the art to which he had attached himself it does not appear that he had received any instructions, even the poorest. However, in the face of all discouragements, he pushed steadily and bravely on, and soon success began to attend his efforts, sufficient to keep him in heart and satisfy him that he had not mistaken his calling. Nominally residing in Woodstock, he pursued his labors more especially in Montpelier, in Middlebury, and in other parts of this State. During the years extending from 1835 to 1840 he was occupied much of the time in Troy and Albany, in which places he painted a large number of portraits, extending the field of his labors, in the mean while, to Buffalo and other parts of the West, and in later years to Boston, where he performed much work in the line of his profession, and so in due time came to acquire, there and elsewhere, a good name and reputation as an artist. Thus it may be truly said his paintings adorn numerous residences and public buildings throughout New England, New York, and other parts of this country.

In 1861 Mr. Mason, being resolved on having a settled abode and home of his own, purchased of Mr. Marsh this lot, as above mentioned, on which, that same year, his brother Marshall, an excellent carpenter, built a house for him. Mr. Mason was unmarried, and the plan was that the two brothers should occupy the house together, and at the same time make a home for their sister Sarah; but Marshall died the following year, and this arrangement, in consequence, fell through.

Mr. Mason, after this time, continued to reside at his home in Woodstock, keeping up his professional labors in different parts of this State or elsewhere, as calls for his services came in. Thus he remained busily employed to the last, and died with unfinished work on his hands, at his residence in this town, the 15th day of January, 1871. From a letter written about that time, to a friend in Woodstock, by S. B. Rockwell, of Middlebury, and printed in the "Vermont Standard," the following is taken: "Mr. Mason was a self-made man. Boasting of no aristocratic origin, born among the green hills of Vermont, he rose to distinc-

tion by his own unaided resources and genius. For general intelligence and gentlemanly refinement he merited and won the esteem of a host of Vermont's best citizens." ¹

A few facts may be stated in this connection about some of the shade-trees of the village, which are such an adornment to its streets. Mr. Charles Marsh, being once asked if the large elms on Elm Street were of native growth, replied, "Only one of them; the others were set out." Which was the one of native growth he did not indicate, but the tree standing near Mr. Lorenzo Richmond's house and inside of the walk was probably the one he had in mind. The magnificent weeping-elm that stands over against the northwest corner of Governor Converse's house was set out by Charles Dana in the spring of 1803. That same spring he set out the great elm on the opposite side of the street, next above the Congregational Church, bringing the tree, then a small sapling, on his back from Mr. Marsh's hill. Competent judges pronounce it one of the finest specimens of its kind in the State.

In May, 1868, careful measurements were taken of these two trees, with the following results:—

WEeping-ELM.

Circumference, 18 in. above ground		13 $\frac{2}{3}$ ft.
" 5 ft. "	"	12 $\frac{4}{5}$ ft.

The same tree measured June 24, 1887, showed:

Circumference, 18 in. above ground		16 ft. 5 in.
" 5 ft. "	"	13 ft. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.
" 6 ft. "	"	13 ft. 5 in.

¹ B. F. Mason and I were born on adjoining farms, about a half mile apart, and I ought to know a good deal about him, but am not able to tell much that I would be glad to. He was born March 31, 1804. His father, Marshall Mason, and his mother, Polly Sessions, were married in Pomfret, June 30, 1788. They resided in Pomfret until about 1825, when the family moved to Woodstock. B. F. had a sore on one of his legs at eight years old, which left him a cripple in that limb ever after. He very early showed a taste for drawing, and while a lad in his "teens" his drawings in charcoal and chalk of animals, ships, and heads of persons, were the wonder and admiration of his mates, and older peo-

ple as well. As early as at twenty years of age he was painting portraits in oil, and followed that business steadily as a life-work. He was in Boston a while, and while there was the pupil of a portrait-painter of note, but I am not able to give his name. His work was largely in Burlington, Montpelier, Rutland, Middlebury, and Woodstock. He was some time at Buffalo, N. Y., but most of his work was in the State.

(Crosby Miller.)

Pomfret, Vt., Aug. 19, 1886

The portrait of Chief-Justice Williams, in the State capitol, and of Norman Williams, in the court-house at Woodstock, are noted specimens of his skill.

GREAT ELM, MAY, 1868.

Circumference, 18 in. above ground		13 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft.
“ 6 ft. “ “		12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft.

The same tree measured June 27, 1887, showed :

Circumference, 18 in. above ground		18 ft. 5 in.
“ 6 ft. “ “		13 ft. 10 in.

Since 1868 this tree has lost two important branches.

The elm in front of Charles Dana's house started originally in his front yard. It was removed thence to the rear of his brick store, and then, in 1828, it was set out where it now stands by William Henry Swan. Occupying an exposed position on the street, it has fared hard in many ways. Its trunk was nearly gnawed off by cattle hitched there; it has lost two prominent branches by gales of wind, and was seriously scorched in the great fire of March, 1867. But all these accidents, enough to kill almost any other kind of tree but an elm, it has safely passed through and is now promising well. As to the other large elms along the street, it is not known positively when or by whom they were set out; but, without inquiring further, they may be credited to Mr. Charles Marsh.

The beautiful elm standing on the Common just in front of Major Churchill's house was set out by Sylvester Edson in 1826. During the following year, while Mr. Edson was building his stone houses, this tree came to be in the way of one of the workmen, and he was directed to cut it down. Mrs. Brown, who lived near by, interfered at this point, and begged Mr. Edson to spare the tree. As such an appeal could not be resisted by this polite gentleman, the tree's life was saved. The smaller elm, standing a little northerly of this one, was set out by Major Churchill; year not known. About the year 1832, the elm standing at the junction of Central and Pleasant streets was set out by John Blish and Mr. Cubley, who brought the tree from above the site of Mr. Watkins' house on Lincoln Street. The same season, or nearly so, the elms in front of R. S. Southgate's house, just below, were set out by Martin L. Bullard and Amaziah Richmond. The one in front of the brick church was placed there about the time the church was built. The elm directly behind Mr. Kent's house may be called exactly sixty years old now (1887), having been noticed as just springing above the ground the year Rev. Walter Chapin died. The one in front of

the house was set out by Mr. Chapin in 1813; it was then about the size of a bean-pole.

About a hundred and thirty years ago the Lombardy poplar was introduced from Italy into the other parts of Europe. Its cultivation spread in every direction with the utmost rapidity, and ornamental trees of every description were rooted up to make way for it. The fancy for this tree extended at length across the Atlantic, and spreading throughout New England, reached even the seclusion of Quechee Valley. "At some period shortly before my going to live at Woodstock, I presume, many Lombardy poplars had been set out in Elm Street and on the lot about the Meetinghouse. They grew rapidly and were sizable trees at the time of the freshet that carried away the bridge across the brook and endangered the house, then Dr. Burnell's, near the bridge, when many of those trees were cut down and drawn into the brook to save the bank being worn away near Burnell's house. The remaining Lombardys did not occupy the street or the Meetinghouse ground long — they were not liked and were destroyed. The ones before my house I had dug up, pulled down, and destroyed." ¹

Quite a number of years ago an effort was made to introduce into the village the buttonwood as a shade-tree, and several were planted along Pleasant Street, and, perhaps, in other streets; but the tree did not seem to take kindly to the soil, and the attempt to cultivate it for a shade-tree was soon given up. So far as any dates have been obtained to show, the first person to set out maples in the village was Mr. Job Lyman, who in 1812 planted some seven or eight on and in front of his premises on Elm Street, two of which still remain. In 1822, Judge Pierce planted a row of them about his residence; others followed his example, and from that time, as the village has grown and new streets have been opened, this tree has been set out in every direction, and now the whole village during the summer season appears embosomed in maples.

According to Mrs. Nathan Howland's statement, that part of the plain now given up to the Common was covered originally with white pine. A fire occasioned by accident had spread over it, just before she came to this town, in 1774, and she used to relate what a ghastly and desolate appearance the plain pre-

¹ Job Lyman, Burlington, Aug. 28, 1869.

sented in consequence, when she first looked upon it. There is no reason to believe that any portion of the Common was ever cultivated or ever felt the stroke of plow or harrow, till long after it became public ground. The first Common, it will be recollected, was laid out in the shape of a triangle and embraced an acre and one half and thirty-five rods. It may be roughly described as beginning at a point near the foot of Church hill, on the south side of the road, thence down the road along the front line of the buildings, as they are now erected, in a northeasterly direction thirty-four rods, to a point below the Eagle Hotel; thence across the Park in a north line eleven rods and five links; thence southwesterly along the highway twenty-two rods; thence a few degrees more southerly twenty-two rods, to the place of beginning. Some half a dozen buildings, including the court-house and jail, were erected about this triangle, and across it to the west side swept the road from Reading, as it was called. Where Mr. Damon's house now is, stood stocks and sign-post, erected by Jabez Bennett in 1789, at a cost of fifteen shillings. The sign-post was about eight feet high and was used for posting notifications, warrants for meetings, etc., and also for a whipping-post. Some years after the enlargement of the Common a pillory was erected by Nathaniel Smith on the south side, near the line of the Park fence and opposite the site of the brick part to the Eagle Hotel.

In 1793, the Common was enlarged to its present dimensions, excepting a slight extension at the westerly end, made since that time; but nothing was done towards improving the grounds, which remained for years as rough and uneven as when first taken from the native forest. Not even the cellar of Jason Richardson's tavern, which had been removed to the westerly side of the Common, was filled up, except as time did the work. Travelers passed over the grounds much as they pleased, though teams generally kept along the highway. Not a tree was to be seen anywhere, and scarcely a fence in front of any of the houses. At length, about the year 1810, some attempt was made for the first time to relieve the general barrenness of the prospect, and as the fancy for the Lombardy poplar was prevailing at that time in many parts of the country, trees of this kind were set out in great numbers about the Common. This piece of ornamental work did not please some of the residents of the neighborhood,

one of the complaints being that the Lombardy poplar bred worms; and after remaining a short season, all the trees but one or two which stood near Mrs. Sylvester's house were torn up in the night time and thrown over the high bank of the river.

Mr. Job Lyman made the statement (October 20, 1869) that one spring, he could not be sure of the date, but between 1820 and 1830, "by the use of plows and harrows the uneven parts of the Common were leveled and sowed with grass seed with some rye or oats with it. Whether that spring or the next, I can not say, some young trees were set out within the principally traveled roads; they were slightly protected and did not last long; many of them were broken down and some were pulled over." This did not prevent further improvement in the same direction, and the following memorandum made by Mr. Williams gives briefly the proceedings in the last and successful effort to accomplish this laudable object: "In the spring of the year 1830 the subject of improving the Court House green was again called up. A subscription was raised, a meeting was held, a committee was appointed, and we set about the work in good earnest. The traveler can see what was done and how great an improvement was wrought in our village." In regard to the way the thing was done, Judge Pierce related (August 31, 1869) that Mr. Williams desired him to take charge of the job of setting out the trees; that the trees were picked out on Rickard's hill, and Doctor T. E. Powers had something to do with making the selection. The trees were all marked on the south side, so that in transplanting they might still have the same side turned to the sun as before. Mr. Willard, who was lecturing on chemistry at the time in the Clinical School, was called upon to engineer the manner of laying out and inclosing the grounds. The Judge, at the time of making this statement, called attention to the fact as worthy of notice, that the Park is just the length of the steamship Great Eastern, very much the same shape, but not quite so wide. One thing more remained to be provided for. After the trees were set out, as the soil was light and dry, and the trees might fail in consequence through lack of moisture, they were divided off into sections and these sections distributed among the boys of the several families (plenty of boys then) residing on the Common, whose business it was to see that a plentiful supply of water was provided through the summer;

and this part of the work also was faithfully attended to, as some of those boys still living can testify. The whole was inclosed in a rail fence painted white, which fence was removed in the year 1878, and its place supplied by the present iron rail fence, the expense of which was largely met by private subscriptions, five hundred dollars of which was contributed by Nathan T. Churchill, and also five hundred by Frederick Billings. It was built under the direction of O. P. Chandler, Justin F. Mackenzie, and George W. Paul, a committee for that purpose, the whole expense being a little over two thousand dollars.



WINTER VIEW OF WOODSTOCK PARK.

Thanksgiving Day, 1885.



CHAPTER XI.

SCHOOLS.

AT an adjourned town meeting held at the house of Dr. Stephen Powers, the first Monday in May, 1779, it was voted to divide the town into five school districts, for the benefit of schooling. Samuel Dutton, Phinehas Williams, William Hilton, Jabez Cottle, and Oliver Farnsworth were chosen a committee to carry out the vote, who made report of their proceedings in the following July. A copy of this report is subjoined: —

WOODSTOCK July 20th A. D. 1779.

1st We the committee being Chosen to divide the town into districts for the advantage of Schooling

2nd having meet and divided in the following manner. (viz)

Beginning where the town line crosses waterqueche river near Mr. Flechers and running up the River including W^m Fuller in said District and Also James Cobbs thence Northernly to the town line

2nd District to begin at W^m Fullers and runing to Bridgewater line including all the rest on the north side of the River

3rd District begining on the town line where it crosses Waterqueche River below Josiah Lambs and runing up the River on the south side of said River up to Rufus Carpenters including said carpenters and Doct. Stephen Powers thence easterly to to the south branch thence runing up said Branch to Hartland road thence to the east line of of said town including the Northeast part of said town

4th District begining where the Road crosses the South Branch that goes to Hartford including M^r Hammonds M^r Pools M^r Phinehas Powers and Runing thence westerly to water Quechee River Then down the river to the third line of the south district including all between said River and the South Branch

5th District including all the rest of said town not mentioned in the four said districts.

SAMUEL DUTTON	}	<i>Committee.</i>
PHINEHAS WILLIAMS		
WILLIAM HILTON		
OLIVER FARNSWORTH		
JABEZ COTTLE		

This division of the town into school-districts answered all purposes for several years. As yet the Legislature had not passed any act for appointing and supporting schools, and whatever legal authority existed for the action of the town in this matter, taken as above, was contained in the 40th section of the constitution. But this deficiency was supplied by an act passed the 22d of October, 1782, "For the due Encouragement of Learning, and the better regulation and ordering of Schools," in which it was provided that each town in the State which could not conveniently be accommodated by one school should have power to divide into so many districts as they should find convenient, and the same to alter from time to time. Upon this act all future legislation concerning schools was based. At the March session of the Legislature, 1787, the subject came up again, when the act of 1782 received some modifications, and at last found its way into the statute-book, and was recognized as a part of the law of the State.¹

Pursuant to the provisions of the law as now at length established, the town, in 1787, was divided into six school-districts, and at the March meeting, 1792, a trustee was chosen for each district, if this had not been done before that year. With the increase of population in the town new divisions into school-districts became necessary, and the number of districts increased until, at length, there were eighteen in all. The names by which these several districts were designated had come to be at last a long and wearisome catalogue to pronounce. Such titles were used as "The Middle District north of the river;" "the Northeast District adjoining Hartford and Hartland;" "the Middle Southwest District," etc., etc. At the March meeting in 1824 all this nomenclature was done away with, and the several school districts in the town were numbered, and thereafter were known and distinguished by the respective numbers affixed to each.

In 1827 the school law received some important changes. By the amended law of that year it was provided that, in place of

¹ Our fathers, when they began to legislate for themselves, were duly impressed with the dignity of their position as *freemen*, and introduced their laws in the following lofty style: "Be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted, by the Representatives of the freemen of the State of

Vermont, in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same." This continued the practice till into the year 1786, when, in place of the above rich and sonorous formula, was substituted the present frigid and emasculated style of doing things.

trustees of the several schools in any town, each town, at March meeting, should choose a committee consisting of three, five, or seven persons, to be styled the superintending committee, and to have the general charge and management of all the public schools in the town. To meet the requirements of the statute, therefore, a committee was appointed to re-arrange the several districts in this town, who reported February 1, 1828, and at the ensuing March meeting a superintending committee of seven was chosen to take entire charge of school matters. This arrangement had in some degree the look of abolishing the district system and adopting the town system, and it continued till 1833, when much of the act of 1827 was repealed, and each school-district left to manage its own affairs under the law as then amended.

But a more serious matter than all this was to provide ways and means for supporting public schools. Houses for this purpose must be built, and provision made to meet running expenses. The first step in this direction was taken at the town meeting in May, 1779, before referred to, when the town voted "to raise four pence on the pound for the advantage of schooling." This vote was never carried out.¹ In fact, so many political questions of the highest importance were pressing upon the attention of the people at this time that schools were neglected. But as by degrees the atmosphere cleared up, more attention was given by citizens to the important matter of providing for the education of all classes.

A special town meeting was held on the 8th of April, 1782. The second article in the warning for this meeting was as follows: "To see if the Town will Raise a tax on the Land in sd Town agreeable to a Law of this state." The law referred to here was an act passed at the October session of the Legislature, 1781, authorizing the inhabitants of the several towns in the State to levy on the lands a tax not exceeding two pence per acre for the purpose of building houses for public worship, school-houses, and bridges. The preamble to this act states the reason with the Legislature for passing such a law, namely, the value of the landed interest of non-resident proprietors is greatly advanced by settlements being formed in towns where such lands lie, and especially by public buildings being erected therein.

¹ At March meeting, 1784, it was voted "to drop and Innihilate the school tax granted March 30th, 1779."

Such a tax was voted at this town meeting. It was also voted "to build a schoolhouse in or near the centre of the town, where it was thought most convenient," the selectmen to pitch the place for said house and see that it was built; furthermore, if any money raised on the land tax was left after paying the expense of the schoolhouse, the same was to be appropriated towards building a bridge across Quechee River. A schoolhouse may have been erected, in compliance with this vote, on or near land belonging to Phinehas Williams;¹ and perhaps this, if erected, was the first schoolhouse set up in the town. At the annual March meeting in 1786 it was voted "to raise a tax of two pence on the pound on the list of the ensuing year, to be paid in wheat at five shillings per bushel, rye at four shillings per bushel, and corn at three shillings per bushel, for the use of schooling." This was a step in addition to the other provisions of the act for appointing and supporting schools, passed October 22, 1782, in which it was provided that trustees of schools should be appointed, and these trustees were empowered "to lease such lands and real estates and loan such monies as do or shall appertain to such schools, or are or shall be given for the use aforesaid." And these trustees were annually to pay over the money arising from the lease of such lands and other real estates, and loan of such moneys, to a committee of each district respectively, in proportion to the number of scholars in such school. Under the same act it was further provided that the several school districts, at a meeting legally called for that purpose, might elect a committee of one or more persons to have charge of the prudential affairs of the district. And these committees were empowered in their several districts to raise one half the money necessary for building and repairing a schoolhouse and supporting a school, by a rate on the list of the polls and ratable estate of the inhabitants of such districts; and the several districts were further empowered, at any meeting warned for that purpose, to raise the other half of the money for the purposes aforesaid, either by a tax on the list of the polls and ratable estates of the inhabitants of their respective districts, or by subscription in proportion to the number of children any person should send or subscribe to

¹ "Being part of the land I [Phinehas Williams] now improve, beginning at the north line of said lot near a new building set up for a school house." (May 11, 1783. *Land Records*, vol. i. p. 158.)

send to such district school. In the act for the support of schools passed October 31, 1797, it was provided, further, that the several towns, at their annual March meeting, might raise such sum as they should think proper for the support of English schools in their respective towns.

An additional act in this direction was passed in 1810, making it the duty of the selectmen of the town to assess a tax of one cent on the grand list for the support of schools; but this tax might be omitted when there was other sufficient income. In 1824 the tax was increased to two cents; in 1827 to three cents; in 1842 to nine cents.

Better provision being now made for the support and maintenance of schools, suitable buildings for this purpose began to appear in various parts of the town, and during the winter term of three months many of them were filled to overflowing. But it is unnecessary to pursue this topic any further. A few of the district schools, however, receive more particular mention elsewhere.

So far as can be ascertained, the first schoolhouse erected on the Green, or what is now District No. 8, was "the schoolhouse by Mr. James Emerson's." It was built about 1797, by Nathaniel Smith and Eben King, and stood on the south side of the highway, as it then ran, between James Emerson's house¹ and Ly-sander Richardson's. The building, after being used as a schoolhouse for several years, was moved to its present site after the old highway was broken up, and was converted into a dwelling-house. It is now the property of Prosper Merrill. In the winter of 1799, Elisha Hamlin kept the school here. He is described as having been a very strict master. At the close of the term he had an exhibition in Nathaniel Smith's house,² which was still unfinished. The exhibition was held in the kitchen, the only room fit for the purpose, and the little boys were stowed away upstairs, to watch proceedings through the chinks in the floor and ceiling. One of those little boys was Chauncey Richardson, then about seven years old, still living (1886), and of sound mind and memory. Jabez King and David Thomas took part in the exhibition, while Daniel Taft played the flute and part of the time the violin. Also Abel Barron kept school here one winter, and

¹ Where now stands Prosper Merrill's house.

² In later times Rev. Walter Chapin's residence.

at the close of his term had a grand exhibition in the kitchen of Doctor Richardson's house. In the winter of 1807 Mayhew Safford kept the school. But the "School District on the Green" was now getting populous, and began to feel the need of better accommodations for the children than those heretofore provided.¹ Therefore in the year 1812 the district proceeded to build a schoolhouse which should be ample for present and prospective needs and occupy a central position. A site was picked on the west side of the Common, just above the court-house. Lyman Mower, Sylvester Edson, and Eben King were elected building committee, and four taxes, raising in all the sum of \$1,210.79, were laid on the district. These taxes were to be paid partly in cash and partly in neat stock.² It was decided to put up a two-story brick building, to include an upper and a lower school-room. James Udall furnished the brick—fifty-three thousand in all. John Raymond, Jr., had the job of laying the same, and Stephen and Jason Powers and Timothy Cox built the cellar. The house was finished in the fall so as to be ready for the winter school. The building, as originally constructed, had two doors on the easterly end, with a bulkhead on the side overlooking the river. It had nineteen windows in all,³ with bars to defend them.

¹ May — 1813.

School District at the Green, Dr.
to School Room for 12 weeks at 3/- \$6.—
to firewood, 7.

13.00

Recd payment by order
JOS. A. GALLUP

[Endorsed]

The collector of the North East district is directed to pay the within Bill, May 10, 1813.

LYMAN MOWER }
SOL. W. BURK } Committee.
AMOS WARREN }

[This was Dr. Gallup's office, long used as a school-room.]

² Levi Haile, Cr. By his Job, \$214.00
Dr. To cattle of T. Hutchinson, 35.50
to cow of Cha. Dana, 15.00
to 1 pr. steers of L. Mower, 23.00 \$73.50
\$140.50

The collector of the North East School District is requested to pay Levi Haile One

Hundred forty Dollars and fifty Cents, it being the ballance due him for his work on the Schoolhouse in sd. District.

Woodstock, 7th Decr. 1813.

LYMAN MOWER }
EBENEZER KING } Committee.
SYLVESTER EDSON }

³ to making 19 window frames for the schoolhouse on the Green at 5^s per frame .11 = 8

to making the sashes and setting the glass to 17 full windows and two small ones, 34 = 1 = 34

to 50 feet slit work to lay into the wall .50
\$46.92

Decm 8, 1813

This may certify that I agree for one of the Committee for Building the school-house to allow Mr. King the above acct.

SYLVESTER EDSON
LYMAN MOWER

Received the contents
EBENEZER KING.

Upon the centre of the roof a belfry was constructed of four posts, with dome and spire, the spire adorned with a wooden vane the shape of a fish.¹ The door at the right hand opened into an entry, in which was a winding staircase that led to the upper school-room. The two opposite sides of this upper room had each three rows of desks arranged according to the fashion of the times. At the westerly end was the chimney and fireplace, there being no stove in the school-room for some years after it was built. In the northeast corner was an elevated platform, having a balustrade, and seats against the walls. Here the boys stood when they spoke their pieces; here also was set the seventeenth "full window," which looked down the main street. After the Brick Meeting-house was built and the town clock set up there, whenever the teacher wished to know the time of day one of the scholars was sent up on this platform to read the hour on the town clock. In this upper room was kept for many years the school for the older scholars, or "the man's school," as it was called. Here David Pierce, Jr., in the winter of 1813, opened the first school kept in the building. Here also John P. Richardson held sway for a season. Other teachers followed, of whom one, a tall, spare man, might be named, who to great piety and strict notions of discipline added also a rather hasty temper. Among his scholars were Jason Marsh, Charles W. Warren, Henry Hutchinson, Henry and Samuel Mower, and others, lads full of life, and doubtless all of them occasional subjects of correction at the hands of the master. And yet that they should be made to go out and cut the sticks with which the whipping was administered, — this the young men thought the hardest part of the punishment to bear. When the last day of the term had come, the master was performing the customary devotions before finally closing the school. While he was thus engaged some confusion arose in the school-room; books passed rapidly from desk to desk, and paper wads flew through the air, with other performances indicating the jubilant state of the youthful mind at prospect of the close of the term. This exhibition of feeling was premature. The master had one eye open all the while, and when the devo-

¹ No bell hung in this belfry for some time after the schoolhouse was built; bell and belfry probably an afterthought. If so, this may explain the architectural beauty of that belfry, a problem other-

wise somewhat difficult to solve. At first, for a period of years, the scholars were called into school by the ringing of the court-house bell.

tions were ended, he called up the several culprits, gave them each a sound flogging and dismissed the school. Once out of the school-room, however, the boys, having gone through with the tragedy, were now prepared to enact the farce. As soon as the master appeared in the street they saluted him with a shower of snow-balls, and followed his retreating footsteps till he found shelter in his lodgings at T. Hutchinson's dwelling-house.¹

Originally the entrance to the lower school-room was by the left-hand door, but after Mr. McGowan came he made some changes. First of all, he brought the "man's school" down-stairs, the small children being sent up-stairs, and this arrangement continued, for the most part, ever after. Next, he closed up the outside door on the left, leaving but one main entrance to both lower and upper school-rooms. Furthermore, the back rows of desks in the lower room he turned round, setting them against the walls. This change he probably thought would aid him to overlook the scholars, on whom he wished his presence to be felt at all times, and in all parts of the school-room. His frequent badge of authority was a short stick with three leather thongs fastened to one end, a "slight tooch" of which (as he expressed it) was generally sufficient.

Mr. McGowan was an Irishman, recently arrived from the old country. He came to Woodstock about the year 1820, perhaps a little earlier. He took lodgings, to begin with, in some rooms over the wood-shed in the ell part of Charles Marsh's house, and how new he was to this country may appear from the fact that one day, while occupying these lodgings, he brought a toad into the house in great surprise, not knowing what sort of creature it was. He taught a private school first, then by degrees worked into the public schools of the town, and in these was employed off and on for ten years or more. During this period a large portion of the young people of both sexes in this village passed under his instruction. His stock of learning was not great, being confined mainly to an acquaintance with the elementary branches taught in the common school. To classical attainments of any kind he did not aspire, nor is it understood that he held them in high esteem. Yet his skill in the mathematics was acknowledged to be above the ordinary, his teaching was thorough, his

¹ Charles W. Warren, June 9, 1871. It is related that the song which animated the martial spirits of the youth on this stirring occasion was the cele-

brated Tyrtæan strain, beginning with the lines:—

"I was there all the while,
At the battle of the Nile."

discipline strict, perhaps not over severe, and his control of the school at all times efficient. The large number of graduates at the brick seminary on the Common, while that institution was under his charge, remember him with interest if not with attachment, and abundant anecdotes have come down through his scholars, illustrating his methods of instruction and government, and otherwise descriptive of his personal characteristics.

Besides the public schools, there have been private or select schools kept in the town from an early day. The customary limit of the public schooling was for the period of six months in the year, and much of the time only a winter term of three months would be kept in many of the districts. To fill up the interval thus occasioned private schools were established, and as these came to assume superior pretension, they would in some cases be continued through the whole year. By means of these the deficiencies of the public schools were in a measure made up. The first form in which this class of schools existed might be termed family schools; oftener the people in a neighborhood would unite and hire some person to instruct their children for a few weeks or months. One of the earliest instances of this occurred in 1785, when the people who lived near the spot where the "South Meeting-house" used to stand agreed with Elder Elisha Ransom to teach their children through the winter. Elder Ransom was regarded among the early settlers as well educated, and in the matter of instructing youth had some advanced ideas, improving on the Connecticut method, which was confined to such elementary studies as reading, writing, and ciphering, by adding to these important branches lessons in Dilworth's Grammar.¹

Often these agreements took the form of a written contract, of which the following is a specimen: —

"We the subscribers do agree to hire Jabez Hammond to teach school in the vicinity in which we reside during the term of three months or more as we may hereafter agree. And as a reward for his services do promise to pay him two shillings for each scollar a month annexed to our names by the tenth day of October next insueing.

"N. B. Said school shall be opened in one fortnight from the date hereof.

¹ This was *The New Guide to the English Tongue*, by Thomas Dilworth, a famous book. Dilworth's praise was in all the churches.

WOODSTOCK, *May 11th*, A. D. 1796.

	No Skollars		No Skollars
JABEZ COTTLE	2	STEPHEN FARNSWORTH	2
DAVID BAILEY	2	ABRAHAM KENDALL	1½
JONATHAN CROOKER	2	ELEAZER PARKER	2
NOAH CROOKER	2	JOHN HAMMOND	2
W ^m . ELLIS	3	DANIEL PERKINS	1½
W ^m . WYLLY	2	MEHITIBATH PHELPS	1
NATH. HAMMOND	2	ISAACK KENDALL	½
WARREN COTTLE	2	LYONEL RANSOM	¾
EBENEZER KINGSLEY	1	JAMES COVEL	3"
DANIEL PERRY	2		

Jabez Hammond probably fulfilled his part of the contract, but to all appearance the subscribers did not, and Hammond, to get his pay, was obliged to lodge the contract in the office of Charles Marsh, Esq., for collection.

The most remarkable institution of this kind which has existed in Woodstock was the Proprietary School, so called, established in 1800, under certain articles of agreement, by Charles Marsh and others. This school continued in successful operation about twelve years, and was then given up. The schoolhouse was located on the site of the Congregational parsonage, Elm Street, and after it ceased to be used for the purpose of a school it was removed to the end of the street next the bridge, where it forms part of the house now (1888) occupied by Mr. Peter Gobie.

As the town grew older and more wealthy, the number of private schools increased, and the improvement in them was more marked than in the public schools. Only a few of these private schools can be described here, and that briefly, attention being confined to those that flourished in this village. On the second Monday in November, 1820, Miss Catharine Lyman opened a school for young ladies. Instruction was to be given in such of the useful and ornamental branches as are usually taught in such schools. The first term was kept in the house which in those days stood on the hill next to Mr. Charles Marsh's dwelling-house. This was done for the greater convenience of one or more young ladies then belonging to Mr. Marsh's family, who wished to attend the school. The next term, which began the following spring, was kept in Washington Hall, over H. B. Dana's store, and was quite fully attended. Besides gathering in scholars from the village, it drew in quite a number of young ladies from the neighborhood of the Flats, and was noticed at the time with con-

siderable approbation. The school continued in all about one year. Miss Lyman came from Northfield, Mass. She was an excellent lady, and very desirous that her pupils should improve; but her methods were not always the best. She was married to the Rev. Thomas Adams, August 16, 1827, and moved to Vassalborough in the State of Maine.

Mr. George H. Parker also opened a school on the 28th day of February, 1822, on Woodstock Green. He proposed to instruct young gentlemen and ladies in "Latin, Greek, French, Logic, Rhetoric, Moral and Natural Philosophy, Natural Theology, Astronomy, Geography, Chemistry, and Mathematics, besides other branches that are usually taught in schools." This was, indeed, holding out a great deal, yet for teaching all these higher and lower branches, if any of them may be properly styled lower branches, he gave assurance that his terms would be moderate. His sister Lucy was with him to assist in conducting the school. Mr. Parker's academical instructions continued through two terms, and then came to a close.¹

Another school, opened about this time, was kept by Miss Hannah Blake, which began on the 14th day of October, 1822, "in the brick building nearly opposite the meeting-house in Woodstock." Upon the opening of her second term, Monday, the 21st of March, the terms of tuition were announced as follows:—

"Reading, Spelling and plain Needlework two dollars per quarter.

"Geography, Grammar, Writing, Arithmetic, Rhetoric, History and natural Philosophy three dollars pr. qu.

"Botany, elements of Chemistry, Logic and Astronomy, Composition, keeping Manuscript, drawing Maps, painting and ornamental Needlework four dollars per qu.

REV. W. CHAPIN

C. MARSH ESQR.

T. HUTCHINSON ESQR.

N. WILLIAMS ESQR.

} Committee of
examination."²

¹ How slight a thing may save or sink a soul, or even an institution! The following squib in the newspaper, concocted by Justus Burdick, overthrew, with its explosion, an academy in Woodstock: "Mr. — very unexpectedly is obliged to leave town for a few days, and wishes to borrow two or three shirts, in consequence of his own being in the washtub.

If any persons should wish to avail themselves of this rare chance, they will leave them at No. 497, Pig alley, at half past eight to-morrow morning, July 8. N. B. They must be very large, and have ruffles, because he intends to take tea with the ladies."

² See manuscript dated Woodstock, February 27, 1823.

Miss Smith, afterwards Mrs. Henry C. Denison, opened a young ladies' school in the hall over the store of H. B. & O. N. Dana, the third Monday in April, 1826. She kept for only a few terms.

In the spring of 1828 Miss Mayhew, of Boston, and Miss Hall, of Windsor, opened a school for young ladies. The third term of this school began on the twentieth of October of that year under the care of Miss M. L. Hall. The terms were from three dollars to nine, according to the branches taken. Miss Hall continued her instructions about a year.

Marshall Conant first taught the public school in the brick schoolhouse on the Common during the winter of 1829-30. The next spring he opened a select school in the hall over H. B. Dana's store, for the instruction of young gentlemen and ladies in all branches of useful knowledge. A large map of the heavens, globes, an orrery, a cometarium, quadrant, and semicircle, and some other instruments were furnished to aid in astronomical and mathematical instruction. Terms three and four dollars per quarter, according to the branches taken. In addition, a competent teacher was secured to give instruction in the French language.

Mr. Conant continued his select school in the autumn following. It was then divided into two departments, the junior and senior. In the junior department instruction was given in the common English branches, such as reading, writing, etc., together with the mechanical powers. The senior department was subdivided into two divisions, one devoted to the Latin and Greek, to be taught by Mr. Grenville Parker; the other devoted to the higher mathematics, natural and mental philosophy, and taught by the principal. The junior department was under the charge of Mr. Henry Hewitt, Jr., assisted by the principal. This arrangement continued through two terms. In the spring of 1831 Mr. Conant gave up his select school, and had a few private pupils at the house of David Pierce, Esq.¹

In September following² he reopened his select school, divided as before into two departments, the junior and senior. The junior department was under the charge of Mr. R. H. Paddock;

¹ *Woodstock Observer*, May 17, 1831.
His pupils were Edward Dana, Charles Marsh, and Jason Pierce.

² See *Woodstock Observer*, August 2, 1831.

the senior department was under the charge of the principal, together with Mr. Moses Davis, assistant in mathematics. The instruction included a course of ten or twelve lectures on astronomy, and also a like number on the mathematics and natural philosophy. Mr. Conant continued this select school till the autumn of 1833, when it was finally closed. During the winter of 1833-34 he taught the public school again in the lower room of the brick schoolhouse. This ended his career as school-teacher in Woodstock, and in 1834 he removed to Boston.

One little episode connected with this select school it will do for the boys of those days to recollect who may chance to be left anywhere. Upon dividing his school into senior and junior departments, Mr. Conant found the latter department, on opening his school, filled to overflowing. Although he was competent to manage a class of boys, he was not always willing. The size of his junior class, and its rather turbulent character, soon proved to be a trial to him. One morning, therefore, after the term had advanced a few weeks, calling this class before him, all the boys except two or three of the older and more sober ones he told to pack up and go, adding a word of friendly advice about good behavior, after leaving the school. This proceeding somewhat astonished the juveniles, but they obeyed orders, gathered up their books, and marched off, Horace Mower leading the course. Arrived in the street they held a council of war, and not seeing their way clearly, under the advice of their leader, adjourned to Hutchinson's meadow by the riverside for further deliberation, and to take such action as the case seemed to require. A flag, with a pole about thirty feet long, was prepared for the occasion, raised, and left to float in the breeze for the rest of the day. But the doors of the school-room remained closed against this section of the junior department of Mr. Conant's select school.¹

In the month of May, 1831, a school for young ladies was

¹ "I have not unfrequently had scholars from the village to whom it was more of a task to teach anything right, than it was to instruct twenty who came to learn; and after all they would go away at last under cognomen of having attended the Select School, and associate their names with such and such ones as having been their classmates there, etc., etc. To prevent such injustice, however, both to my-

self and the school in general, I have occasionally gone into the practice of dismissing them, and sometimes to avoid worse consequences, the whole class to which they belonged." (M. Conant, *Vermont Courier*, December 13, 1833.)

Mr. Conant did best and felt best with a *very select* school. As for the mixed multitude of pupils, he had no pleasure in them.

opened by Miss Lucy Russ in the upper room of the brick schoolhouse on the Common. After the first or second term she moved into the room up-stairs, adjoining Union Hall. She is pleasantly remembered by such of her pupils as still survive, and was indeed a most excellent woman and kind-hearted teacher. She must have kept school here for a year or more.

In the summer of 1832, in the interval between Mr. Conant's winter and fall terms of that year, a boys' school was opened in the hall over G. Henry's store in this village. The master of this school came from the city of New York, highly recommended by such men as Thomas Lyell, D. D., Rev. Erskin Mason, Governor Tallmadge, and others. He kept a very remarkable school, with equally remarkable results. A part of the daily course of instruction at the beginning of the term was a solemn parade in the street on sunshiny afternoons, with a view to securing a change of air for the pupils, and otherwise physical and moral improvement for the youthful mind. The order of march was for the older scholars to lead off, walking arm in arm, while the master brought up the rear, leading by the hand some one of the younger pupils. But as the boys soon learned, after turning the corner of a street and getting beyond the reach of the master's eye, to catch the bit and run, this article in his code of instruction was speedily dropped. Conducted on the strangest scale of inaptitudes and fatuities, this school could not well continue beyond one term.¹

In the fall of 1834 a high school for young ladies was opened in Washington Hall, Elm Street, by Mrs. Cooke, with Miss Sarah Chapin as assistant, under the title of "Mrs. Cooke's Seminary." This proved quite a successful school, and was continued in Washington Hall two terms. With the summer term, beginning the 18th day of May, 1835, it was opened in the three new school-rooms recently fitted up for that purpose in the second story of the brick building on the Common, now Park Cottage. Miss A. Bates, of Middlebury, was the assistant at this term. Instruction was given in the elementary and higher branches, and in Latin

¹ Samuel Pratt, who was a member of this school, wrote a composition in which was the sentence, "The child was asleep when it was murdered." "All wrong, Samuel," said the master, "all wrong. There is no such word in the dictionary as *asleep*, and I will give five

dollars to any one who will find it." In a few minutes Samuel brought him the dictionary and pointed out the word. "It was wrong," the master insisted; "the word had no business there," and Samuel did not get his five dollars.

and Greek. To the general curriculum was added for the season a course of lectures by one of the professors in the Medical School. Mrs. Cooke remained at the head of this seminary about eighteen months, and then withdrew. After her departure Miss Mary Bates, of Middlebury, took charge of it, assisted by her sisters, Abbie and Ann, with Miss Harriet Hosford, of Thetford, to give instruction on the piano. Miss Bates continued to conduct the school about two years, when she gave it up and went to South Carolina.

This may be counted the largest and most flourishing of the many schools of the kind ever kept in this village. Most of the young ladies in the vicinity attended it, with quite a large number from abroad, the school indeed presenting many attractions. The occasional public examinations held at the close of a term were always well attended, and the exercises were usually quite creditable, both to the teachers and their pupils. In connection with this school, and as if forming a part of it, may be mentioned a course of lectures on English Literature, by Professor Haddock, of Dartmouth College, delivered in the upper room of the brick schoolhouse on the Common. These lectures might serve to illustrate what people mean when they speak of a thing as a rare literary treat.

In the month of September, 1836, a boys' school was opened in the village, by William Bates, son of President Bates, of Middlebury College. It gathered in some of the old line of boys, now fast getting to be young men, — Charles G. Fitch, Charles and Frederick Billings, Benjamin S. Dana, William Collamer, and others. The school was kept for the first term in the northeast room over the Bank of Woodstock, but after that it was removed, for the winter term, to an apartment in the cellar under the Episcopal Church. This apartment was a damp and murky spot, better fitted for the habitation of bats and owls than for a school-room. It was warmed by a stove with the pipe running out at the window which looked towards the south. But as the wind never blew favorably for the successful operation of the stove, the room, in consequence, was almost daily filled with smoke. This condition of things becoming at length unbearable, Mr. Bates removed his school to the room attached to the old Union Hall, up-stairs, which long served as a retreat or receptacle for vagabond institutions of this sort, and finally, a few years

before the building was burnt, became the printing-office of the "Spirit of the Age." Mr. Bates had under his charge a tumultuous company of young men, and they gave him some trouble. In time the scholars became quite attached to the master, and were very sorry to have him close his school, which he did at the end of the second term.

Another very noteworthy school of this class was opened in the spring of 1837 by Mr. Pierson, a member of the Sophomore Class in Burlington College. This school embraced some portions of Mr. Bates's school, with additions from other quarters. Among its members were Charles Marsh, Jason Pierce, Edward H. Williams, Frederick Billings, William Collamer, and others. The school-room for the first term was Judge Pierce's office, on Pleasant Street, attached to the judge's residence, or rather to his woodshed. A part of the scholars were placed in the body of the office, where, likewise, was a seat for the teacher. As this filled the apartment to overflowing, the rest of the pupils occupied the portico of the office, or even sat on the stairway; for the judge, besides occupying a seat on the bench, was auditor of accounts for the State, and had his office in a room over his woodshed. The school-room looked towards the south, and the quarters in consequence were somewhat warm on the sunny days of summer. But against the sufferings arising from such a state of things a way of escape was soon provided. When the day proved too warm for the customary quarters in the office, the teacher would adjourn, with his scholars, to more spacious apartments on Mr. Charles Marsh's hill. There, under the spreading branches of some one of the grand maple-trees that lined the hill-side, a school-room would be extemporized for the occasion, and so the forenoon and afternoon sessions passed smoothly by, agreeably diversified with short exercises in the books, and more extended exercises in the adjoining woods. Before the opening of the fall term, a room was prepared in the judge's barn, which stood about a rod northward of the office. The approach to this room was from Elm Street, through the cow-yard, and the sunlight was sufficiently excluded from the apartment to satisfy the most wintry disposition. In these new quarters the school began once more, at the close of the summer vacation, under changed, if not improved, auspices, and in such surroundings as these were laid the foundations of a liberal education for the enterprising youth

here under instruction. Through various fortunes and various distinctions of things, this school continued a year and one term, or quite as long as it ought to continue, its pupils meanwhile tending, if not towards more classical attainments, at least towards more classical associations. It may be regarded as about the last of select schools established for the education of young gentlemen in the village of Woodstock, or at least as the last it is proper to mention here.

CHAPTER XII.

CHURCH MUSIC AND SINGING-SCHOOLS.

FOR a long period of years after the establishment of church worship in this town, one of the most important personages in the conduct of religious exercises was the leader of the choir. The first man to fill this post in Woodstock was Dr. Stephen Powers. The doctor had enjoyed quite a musical reputation in Old Middleborough, of which he was extremely jealous, and indeed left that town, one of his grandsons used to say, because another man had come there to live who excelled him in singing. In Woodstock the doctor held undisputed sway for a long time in the musical as well as in the medical world, and being regular in his attendance at church service, it always devolved upon him to take charge of the singing.

About the year 1791 Elisha West came from "below" and settled in Woodstock. Perhaps he had lived here before that time, but in the above-named year he located in Happy Valley, as is related elsewhere, on the farm which Josiah Clark occupied before him. He called himself a housewright at this time, but farmed it also to the best or poorest of his ability. He remained in Happy Valley nearly three years, then moved over to Sunnyside in Pomfret, picking a place whence he could overlook the valley of the Quechee and some part of the village of Woodstock. This spot continued his residence till the fall of 1802, when he received from Israel Richardson a deed of Richardson's homestead place on East Hill, Hazen's Hill, Blake's Hill, as it has been called at different times; the very farm Captain Richardson bought as his first purchase of land in Woodstock twenty-one years before.

Immediately after his coming to this town, West became the leader, head, and chief of the musical world in the vicinity. Wherever West appeared, all other musical dignitaries gave way before him. He was not only a fine singer, having a natural gift that way, but also a teacher of the divine art, and he likewise com-

posed tunes possessing, to say the least, the average degree of merit. Our people had the sense to employ him as a teacher forthwith; for good singing they esteemed as a main source of enjoyment, and furthermore an indispensable part of church worship. Indeed, the chief idea with them in all musical instruction was to secure for their religious services the highest degree of excellence possible in psalm-singing. As to what that excellence consisted in, and how it was to be attained, they had their own notions. Therefore the following paper was circulated in these parts, once upon a time, in behalf of Elisha West.

“To regulate harmony in the religious societies in this town — And to encourage youth and others who wish to gain knowledge in the pleasing Art of Psalm singing — We, the subscribers, voluntarily agree to pay the sums we hereunto annex with our names, to Mr. Elisha West, for his services in the instruction of said art and the intervening charges, — At a price as shall be agreed on betwixt a Committee of the Subscribers and said West. — Said parties are to agree on the place where said services are to be performed — and the time when to begin them. Dated Woodstock, Dec. 17th, 1794.

	Dolls.		Dolls.
A. Baker	2	Moses Osgood	1
J[ason] Richardson	3	Josiah Taylor	1
B. Swan	3	Charles Marsh	2
S. Day	2	Samuel Sherman	1
Abrm Hedge	1	Rufus Carpenter	1
Nathaniel Smith	1	Samuel Fuller	1
Timothy Stevens	$\frac{1}{2}$	Jesse Williams	2”

For about twelve years West continued the leading music teacher in this vicinity, opening singing-schools at different points through the winter seasons, but making it a principle always to have at command a well-drilled choir for any emergency. His younger pupils met in the afternoon; in the evening the older ones came in; and everybody went to the singing-school in those days. For the people thought their children should all be taught to sing, just as much as they should be taught the arithmetic. The tunes then sung were mostly of the fugue style; for by that time had been fully established, through the persevering efforts of Billings, of Boston, the revolution in church music by which the fugue tunes came to supersede the old English tunes.

As a teacher West was a careful drill-master. He gave most patient attention to the rudiments, and those who still remember his instructions¹ speak of him in this particular with high respect. Above all things there was in his school the most rigid observance of the laws of time, and even certain bad habits of his were not allowed to interfere with the order and discipline he considered needful to have the school a success. About 1801 he published a collection of tunes and anthems containing many original pieces, which was "printed typographically at Northampton, Mass., by Andrew Wright, for Elisha West and Benjamin Billings, Jr." Furthermore in January, 1809, a short time after having left Woodstock, he advertised as for sale at the Windsor Bookstore, "The Musical Concert, containing the rudiments of music and a great variety of Psalm tunes, together with a number of anthems suitable for churches and singing societies, many of which were never before published. By Elisha West, *Philo Musico*."

But unluckily West, like too many other musical people who have flourished in this world, had an exceeding fondness for drink, in which propensity his help-meet shared with him. The result of this was loss of health, loss of property, domestic troubles. On the 18th of August, 1807, through his attorney, Titus Hutchinson, he petitioned for a divorce from his wife. In his declaration he informs us that "on the first day of December, in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, he was legally joined in marriage to Abigail Delano, then of North Yarmouth, in the province of Maine." About the same time he sold out what he still owned of his farm to Andrew McWain, and soon after left the vicinity of Woodstock. But the influence of his drill and discipline in the "divine art," of his musical taste, and his devotion to psalmody, was not lost on this community for the next generation.

After the departure of Elisha West, Captain David Dutton became the musical leader in the North Parish of Woodstock. Dutton was a man of good manners and appearance, and besides taking an active part as a teacher and leader in singing, figured for a while in the military line. However, after the Congregational Church was erected on the Green, Dutton sung in the choir only when called on.

About 1807 there flourished, under the charge of Captain

¹ Written September 29, 1870.

Stephen Durkee, one of the greatest and best singing-schools ever known in these parts. The origin of this school was as follows: In the summer of 1806 the Congregational Church was raised and partly built. Those interested in the building of the church were desirous of having a good choir for the exercises in the church when it was completed. They united therefore to engage the services of Captain Durkee, and hired him for a year, agreeing to pay him wages and board him at Taylor's Hotel, and to find a hall to sing in, besides wood and lights. The lights used were mould candles brought from Boston. The hall was in Mrs. Molly Richardson's tavern. The captain remained rather more than a year. He began his school about the 1st of November, 1806. Charles Marsh interested himself very much in this school, and one day brought from Windsor a number of small pamphlets containing rules for learning to sing, and distributed them among the scholars.¹ It was Durkee's habit to call his choir together in the court-house at the third service on the Sabbath, and the singers filled the entire circular seat within the bar of the house, numbering forty or fifty. These were mostly treble and bass singers; but the leader himself sat in the chief judge's seat with one tenor, Cephas Ransom, on his right hand, and on the left three or four counter singers. Over this large and efficient choir Durkee presided in the most spirited manner. The Legislature sat here in the fall of 1807, and the members, some of them, frequently attended the exercises of the school. They all affirmed that nothing like the performances of this choir ever had been heard in this State.² It may be added here that about this time the tune "China," composed by Timothy Swan, came into vogue, and as sung by members of his family attracted universal attention.

After Captain Durkee was through, by general consent James Cutler, a law-student in this village, succeeded as instructor in music and leader of the choir. Cutler kept a singing-school in the old Union Hall in 1811. It was his practice while conducting his school to mark the time by a downward motion of both his arms and by stamping with his left foot. As he was thus zealously occupied one evening, a mischievous boy named Curtis came behind him and caught his foot while suspended in the air, causing him to fall forward on the floor. The joke, though a

¹ Miss Mary Harvey, May 19, 1871.

² N. Williams.

rough one, only produced general merriment in the school, in which Cutler himself heartily joined.¹ Cutler presided over the choir in grand style, beating time with a lofty and sweeping wave of the hand in the air. He ruled also with the rod of a tyrant. Like many other musical chiefs, he had his pet tunes which must be sung on every possible occasion, and this constant repetition came at length to be very wearisome to the choir. Among the number was a tune by the name of "Confidence," a special favorite with Cutler, so often brought forward that the singers became exceedingly restive under the infliction, and showed positive signs of rebellion. The young ladies in the choir went so far as to declare "they should keep their seats the next time that thing was trotted out." The Sunday after these marks of an outbreak were exhibited, the musical chief was observed to take his seat in the singers' gallery with a look of awful determination. After the morning services began and the first hymn was read, he rose, opened his singing-book and with compressed lips, yet with dreadful distinctness, called out, "Confidence," at the same time casting a terrific look along the sides of the choir. There were some nudgings and scowlings and poutings, but all obeyed the imperial mandate and sung the hymn through. In the afternoon the operation was repeated, and the hated "Confidence" called out once more, with grim satisfaction to the chief that he thus could hold in check these turbulent spirits.²

Hitherto the fugue tune, firmly established by Elisha West in popular favor, had maintained its place in the religious exercise of the day. But about the beginning of 1814 a change took place in the character of church music, and the fugue began to be discarded. Henceforth tunes of this class were rarely used in the churches, and about the last time one of them has been performed at a religious exercise in Woodstock, in the spirit and simplicity of the ancients, was in the winter of 1843, at a revival meeting held in the Methodist Church, when Titus Hutchinson, Isaiah H. Carpenter, and two or three others of the same generation did up "Lenox" in the true and hearty style of old times, to the great delight of some few of their juniors present on the occasion.

Alexander Holton, a lawyer, succeeded to the post occupied by Cutler. Among the members of the choir at this time were John

¹ Job Richmond.

² Mrs. N. Williams.

C. Bancroft, Justus Burdick, David Pierce, Samuel Ward, Miss Harriet and Miss Emily Swan, Miss Harriet Gallup, Miss Susan Dutton, and others. In June, 1814, Jason Steele and Norman Williams were added to the number. The change in the style of church music, which wrought the banishment of the fugue, had become fixed and complete by this time, and the new style was growing in favor throughout the country. In the course of the year Holton went away and his place was taken by Mr. Steele. Towards the close of the year 1816 Mr. Steele left Woodstock and settled in the practice of the law at East Randolph. The leadership of the music now devolved on Norman Williams, who held the place till he went to Montreal in 1831. To him our community owes more than to any other man for the encouragement and support of church music in this town. After he went to Montreal, Benjamin Swan, Jr., became the leader, and remained so till the summer of 1841. He was then succeeded by Charles Dana, Jr., who held the place for more than twenty years.

Singing in our religious societies was conducted for a long time with little, if any, aid from instruments. When the base-viol was first introduced is not known, but Isaiah H. Carpenter is thought to have been one of the earliest performers on this instrument. While John C. Bancroft was a member of the choir, he ventured now and then of a Sunday to accompany the singing with the violin. The introduction of this profane and worldly instrument shocked the minds of the more serious ones in the church, and caused much comment on the evil tendencies of the times. Yet Bancroft played it so softly, and under his touch it blended so sweetly with the voices of the singers, that no one in the congregation would have known of its presence in the choir, without taking pains to look for the wicked thing. The violin, however, was at no time much used in the choir. The main dependence at all times for instrumental aid was on the double bass-viol; sometimes Amos Cutler would add the tenor-viol, or the clarionet would be brought in, oftener the flute.¹ In December, 1827, organs were first set up in this town, one in the Congregational

¹ Judge Pierce once remarked to me, that in his day the chief and often only instrument used was the double bass-viol. But Amos Cutler, the shoemaker, sometimes played the tenor viol. This was for Sundays. But on grand occasions the choir pressed into service such brass and other instruments as were available, and often the bugle, with its notes, helped to swell the volume of sound.

Church and one in the Episcopal Church. The first organist in the Congregational Church was John J. Cleaveland, who played about three months. A rupture between him and a member of the choir caused his withdrawal. After Cleaveland's departure Miss Frances Swan played for a few weeks, then Miss Elizabeth Dana for one year, till May, 1829. Through all the successive years till 1838 these two ladies did most of the playing; then Miss Louisa Lyman became the organist and held the place uninterruptedly for about nine years. Hitherto the organ had been played without remuneration, but after this time the organist began to receive pay.

The first singing-school started in Woodstock, so far as any record has been discovered, was the one already mentioned as begun by Elisha West in 1794. With the establishment of Mr. West here as a music master may be reckoned the commencement of any scientific effort at teaching church music and singing in general, although singing in some shape, and good singing too for the times, our people had kept up from the first organizing of churches in the town. Then opened a grand era for music and singing-schools in Woodstock, during which West, Dutton, Durkee, and James Cutler successively appeared on the stage, and the pleasing art of singing was cultivated by all classes as an indispensable acquirement. After this period followed a season of comparative dearth in the musical world, and singing does not seem to have been cultivated with much zeal for several years. In March, 1821, a school for instruction in sacred music was opened in what is now recollected as Union Hall. The teaching was to be done by some members of the Congregational choir, and as the school was intended for the benefit of that choir, no charges were made for instruction. This school could have lasted but a short time, and probably proved abortive, as such attempts generally do. But about this time Mr. Duren, the very prince of all singing-masters, set up a singing-school in Woodstock. He had, indeed, made his appearance here before this date, and served in some capacity in the good cause of pushing forward the science of music, and perhaps had taught a school; but now he showed himself in full strength. He was, indeed, a sort of root and branch man, and swept away all that was left of the old order of things, introducing new measures, new rules, new ideas in the art of teaching and performing

sacred music, and banishing from the schools forever any remnant of the spirit of '76 that might be found still lingering around them.

Quite a new spirit seems to have been infused into the musical circles by these efforts of Mr. Duren, and the quality of the singing was elevated, and with increased experience came a desire among the singers to undertake something greater and more important than hitherto had been accomplished by any choir in this town. It so came to pass, therefore, that in 1824 the Congregational choir, then in good running order for numbers and discipline, gave two public concerts, one in May and one in September. These concerts, especially the first one, were a great success, and the performances of the choir were spoken of highly at the time.

In the "Woodstock Observer" for October 21, 1828, appeared the following notice: —

"MUSIC SCHOOL

"The subscriber respectfully informs the young Gentlemen of Woodstock and its vicinity, that he will open a school for their instruction at Mr. Barker's Hotel, on Wednesday, the 21st at 6 o'clock in the evening.

"A subscription paper will be left at the Bar. Terms, \$3.00 for 24 lessons.

"WOODSTOCK, Oct. 21, 1828

S. G. SIMMONS "

Concerning the results of this notice no information has been obtained.

In 1831 Mr. Duren renewed his musical instruction in Woodstock, conducting his teachings in the spirit and style of his previous efforts in the same field. His school was held in the old court-house, the singers filling the body of the house full, and was continued several terms. Then in the year 1836 Mr. Partridge, a student of music, and by some reckoned the best tenor singer ever in Woodstock, opened a singing-school in Union Hall, which was held part of the time in the room back of Union Hall, on the same floor. He was a little man, but a great hand at drill, and not inferior to West or Duren in securing from his pupils attention to the laws of time. He introduced the Boston Academy Collection, Lowell Mason's best compilation of sacred music, which soon superseded the Handel and Haydn, as that

had driven out the old Bridgewater Collection. He also introduced the Mendelssohn method of instruction, as it was called. About this time Elder Twitchell, of Barnard, likewise opened a school in Union Hall, which took in quite another class of pupils. Here indeed old and young met together, and among the scholars might be seen many a venerable lady with spectacles on nose, beating time with all the energy of youth. High over all other objects in the room towered the elder's huge form, as he moved from side to side and marked time for his pupils; and whenever he joined in the singing, loud rose his tones above the combined efforts of the whole school. Especially, when "Old Tolland" was on the track, in singing the line, "The moon shines full," his voice swelled like a trumpet and he sang with amazing energy. Rich, too, and original, were his occasional criticisms on the performances of his pupils. One evening they were singing with more than ordinary looseness, and the elder stood still as they made their disorderly walk through the tune before them. After the *pitter-patter* was over he paused a moment and then dryly remarked: "That sounds like dragging a wet dishcloth down-stairs."

While Elder Twitchell's school was having its course and doing its appointed good, on other evenings of the week Mr. Bingham, of Claremont, was keeping what may be safely called the most popular singing-school ever held in Woodstock. Bingham had not the finish of Mr. Partridge, nor his skill and readiness in executing difficult passages in singing; for there was nothing in church psalmody or in the ordinary secular music of the day which Partridge could not read at sight with perfect ease. But Bingham had a swift, off-hand way, which was calculated to get a great deal of work of some sort out of his pupils; he wasted no time while in the school-room, but kept the machinery all in motion, and at as high a rate of speed as was consistent with securing in the work that degree of excellence he thought might justly be looked for in singing-schools. He was always good-tempered, too, and bore with the slowness of his pupils, even when, after the fiftieth time of asking, no one among the number could tell the use of a *signature*. These and other qualities in the man made him an excellent hand to get along with the promiscuous gathering of men, women, and children, that commonly attended singing-schools in those days.

Mr. Bingham wished his pupils, when they sung, to open their mouths wide. They need not be afraid, he would say, of making up faces in the process. If they, any of them, made worse faces than he did while singing, they would do well. But, especially, he wished the singing to go off with a snap. So long as we sing, let us be moving, he might say, and therefore while he attended, as a teacher should, to the more delicate parts and the softer touches that happened to occur in a piece of music, to make sure that his pupils executed them with proper attention to the sentiment, it was delightful to see him straighten up, when there was a change from slow to swift and from soft to loud, as with a sharp scrape of his viol he sounded the onward note to the school. If he could get the scholars to cut that last note short, then his satisfaction was complete. To have the thunder of a hundred voices roll through the closing passages of an anthem like "Great is the Lord," and then all strike the last note together quick and sharp, so that the mighty noise should be followed instantly by the stillness of death,—this was a perfect realization of the Bingham ideal.

This school was continued through two terms, and helped the cause of singing in our community in a high degree. Some people would call it nearly the last efficient school we have had in the village; the last one that produced any enduring effects upon the musical training and habits of the people.

After Bingham's school closed nothing worth notice was done in the line of singing till 1840, when the Tippecanoe campaign opened. Then, indeed, the whole country was ablaze with excitement, while city, village, and hamlet rang with campaign songs. The impetus given to the singing faculty at this time among all classes lasted beyond the exigencies of the campaign, and showed itself in the renewed interest that attended the culture of church and secular music the year following. In the winter of 1839-40 Mr. Brown settled in Woodstock, and became the musical leader in the village. But Brown, though an effective tenor singer in a chorus, where power was required, was not a very good teacher, nor was his influence what it ought to have been in sustaining and elevating the art of music in this town. Still at no period in the history of the town has singing been cultivated more widely or with more zeal than it was during the three or four years following directly on the great political cam-

paign. Schools were kept up and associations formed to give wholesome discipline to the young and to improve the popular taste. Large and well-trained choirs were found in our churches ; at the Flats was an excellent band of singers under the leadership of I. B. Hartwell ; and in all the rural districts good singers were numerous, even where singing-schools did not exist. The medical school, then in its most flourishing state, furnished annually several effective voices, and it is pleasant to recall the names of Smith, Harlow, Goodale, Loomis, and Rublee, besides many others, who successively contributed so much to sustain the reputation of the place for good music, and to secure for worshiping congregations every Sunday good singing in our churches.

But the times have changed since those days, and the musical world has changed with them. Singing-schools have lost their hold on the popular mind, and finally have gone out of fashion, like huskings, and apple-parings, and spelling-schools.

CHAPTER XIII.

VERMONT MEDICAL COLLEGE.

ON the 14th day of August, 1826, Dr. Joseph A. Gallup issued a prospectus for a "New Medical School," in which the public were respectfully informed that "by the advice of Several gentlemen of the Faculty, as well as the Solicitation of various Students, a Medical institution was contemplated to be established at Woodstock, Vermont, under the style of the

CLINICAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

Lectures to commence on Monday, the Eleventh of September next, to continue one quarter, and instruction to be given as follows: —

"JOSEPH A. GALLUP, M. D., Institutes of Medicine, Materia Medica, Clinical Practice, and Obstetrics.

"J. V. C. Smith, M. D., Boston, Anatomy, Physiology, and Surgery.

"Charles U. Shepherd, A. B., Boston, Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology.

"Mr. Luther Cross, N. H., Botany and Pharmacy."

In the course of the same month, however, it was announced that, "owing to some unexpected derangements, the operations of the Clinical School of Medicine" were deferred to the 1st of March following.

Pursuant to this announcement, lectures commenced in the Clinical School of Medicine, "under favorable auspices," Monday, the 5th day of March, 1827, and continued twelve weeks. Dr. Joseph W. McKean, of Boston, gave instruction in Anatomy and Surgery; F. A. Willard, of Northampton, in Chemistry, Botany, and the kindred branches. The remaining branches were attended to by Dr. Gallup, who, indeed, for two years to come, gave nearly all the instruction that was given in the school. The introductory lecture was read by him in the hall of Cutting's Hotel, where for the present he continued to give his instruc-

tions. The Clinical School rested solely on its own merits, and this first course of lectures appears to have opened and closed without attracting much attention from the world at large. But before the year was ended the school itself became the subject in certain quarters of considerable and very animated talk.

At the session of the Legislature held the following autumn, a petition was presented for a grant of an act of incorporation for the Medical School at Woodstock, signed by thirty-four of the physicians of Windsor County and a large number of citizens. This petition was referred to a committee of five. Of this committee four were physicians and members of the House; the fifth was a member of the Council, and not a physician. After a patient investigation, the committee were unanimous in favor of the grant, and reported a liberal bill. When the bill was taken up and read a second time in the House, a debate of considerable spirit and interest ensued. Mr. Colburn, of Fairhaven, moved to postpone the bill to the next session, observing, in support of his motion, that there were already two institutions of the kind in the State, which were as many, he believed, as the State could support or the public wants required.

Mr. Huntington, of Rochester, was opposed to dismissing the bill, and with much earnestness and at some length set forth the reasons why he hoped the motion would not prevail. Mr. Bradley, of Sunderland, said he hoped the motion would prevail; for although the gentleman last up had painted and varnished up this affair so that it appeared like a whited sepulchre, yet he suspected that it was, in fact, full of dead men's bones.

Mr. Collamer, of Royalton, spoke in favor of the bill, and said, among other things, that, "as it had been suggested there might be a difference in the medical doctrines of the two institutions in this State, if this was established, and as none could 'decide when doctors disagree,' the people this side of the mountain thought it was no more than fair to have a school here, that they may die in their own way."

The motion to postpone was then put by yeas and nays, and lost.

The next day the bill was called up again, when Mr. Ransom, of Townshend, proposed an amendment fixing the location of said school at Brattleborough. The member from Chelsea favored this amendment, as he wished the institution to be placed

as far from him as possible, and only regretted the amendment did not designate Vernon, which was still further off. The amendment was adopted; when, on the question of the second reading, the yeas and nays were taken, and were, yeas, 56; nays, 138; so the bill was rejected. Evidently the Clinical School at Woodstock must get along for the present without help from the Legislature.

A course of lectures had been planned for the school, to come off during the fall of 1828; but owing to unavoidable difficulties, this plan was given up, and the term postponed to the first week in the following March. This was much regretted at the time, as a respectable number of students stood ready to attend, and the new brick building erecting for the purposes of the school might have been finished in season for lecturing.

Meanwhile various circumstances occurred within the next year to retard the progress of the institution. But on the 10th of July, 1829, the Faculty gave notice that every obstacle seemed at length to have been surmounted. A commodious brick building had been erected containing seven rooms besides the basement story, two of the rooms well constructed for giving lectures; a faculty of the school had been formed, and a system of procedure established which might well stand as a guarantee to the public that the institution would go into operation with fair and honorable intentions. A course of study would commence on the first Thursday of March next. The public were further informed that the Trustees of Waterville College had extended their patronage to the institution, by whom medical degrees would be conferred on such pupils of the school as should be found worthy and be suitably recommended. The recommendations were to be attested by the Faculty of the institution, by two censors appointed by the trustees of the college, and two appointed by the Vermont Medical Society.

As much feeling existed in the community at this time, owing to the unwarrantable disinterments which had been practiced in the neighborhood, and as the Faculty professed a just abhorrence of the unlawful and immoral methods pursued by some for obtaining subjects for practical anatomy, they pledged themselves to the community not to use, nor suffer to be used, so far as might come to their knowledge, any human body that might be disinterred *hereabouts*. "It may be invidious to set limits, but we are willing

to say the State of Vermont." Furthermore, as a guarantee of their sincerity, a plan was adopted by the Faculty to relieve the public mind on this point. A committee was appointed consisting of three persons entirely disconnected with the school, who were at all times to have access to the premises, and to whom the keys were to be delivered whenever demanded, and whose duty it would be to disclose any improper proceedings on the part of the Faculty in this direction. This committee consisted of Hon. Henry C. Denison, Colonel Daniel Dana, and Captain Charles Dana.¹

On the 30th day of October, by order of the Faculty, an advertisement was issued, giving in detail the organization and the plan of the Faculty of the institution and their particular functions, together with the expenses of the course. This announcement states that "Lectures will commence on the first Thursday, the 4th of March next, and continue 13 weeks. The more strictly professional instruction will be given by Doctors JOSEPH A. GALLUP and WILLARD PARKER, with some assistance by Doctor DAVID PALMER. The instruction on chemistry and the collateral branches of natural science, by Mr. Frederick A. Willard. The usual number of lectures will be four a day.

"The prerequisites necessary to entitle a student for admission to an examination for the degree of Doctor of Medicine are a good education with a competent knowledge of the Latin and Greek languages, three years' study with a licensed physician, an attendance of at least two courses of lectures, a good moral character, and an age of twenty-one years." A further item of interest was the announcement that an infirmary would be established at the house of Captain J. Wilder, a few rods west of the court-house, where sick and disabled persons might have the united advice and professional aid of the Faculty, free of expense, during lecture term.²

Pursuant to this announcement, the Clinical School of Medicine was opened Thursday, March 4, 1830. The introductory lectures were public, and were well attended. The course of lectures closed Wednesday, the 2d day of June. The examination of candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine occupied Monday and Tuesday, and was conducted by the Faculty, in connection with two censors from Waterville College, and two from the

¹ *Woodstock Observer*, July 21, 1829.

² *Ibid.*, Nov. 10, 1829.

Vermont Medical Society. On Wednesday degrees were conferred on the following gentlemen in order: Calvin Allen, Leonard Baston, Chauncey H. Burgess, John F. Carpenter, Willard P. Gibson, Otis L. Gibson, Abraham Harding, Isaac Mainard, Stillman Ralph, James Rice, Oliver Russ, Nathan H. Thomas, and Erasmus Winslow. The honorary degree of M. D. was also conferred on Dr. Joseph A. Denison, of Royalton.

After the conferring of degrees an elegant and appropriate address was delivered to the graduates by Dr. Joseph A. Gallup. The censors and others who attended the examinations represented that the exercises throughout were very interesting and highly creditable to the institution. The lecture term for the following year closed on the 1st day of June. The public exercises consisted of an oration by Mr. Clap, and an address to the class by Dr. Parker. This address was spoken of at the time as a production of high merit. The class attending the course of lectures won the good opinion of all by their gentlemanly deportment, and left the village amid the regrets of those with whom they had been associated. The examination of candidates for a degree excited the admiration of distinguished medical men from abroad who were present on the occasion. The institution seemed establishing itself on a firm foundation.

The lecture term for the spring of 1832 began with about eighty students, and more were expected. The influx of so large a number of young men into the limits of this village created a little confusion at first. As they themselves said, some were pretty fine fellows and some were not, and it took several weeks to get matters adjusted between students and townspeople so that the rights and privileges of the respective parties might be vindicated and established. This having been at length accomplished, all things moved on smoothly in the social world as well as in the medical department, to the close of the lecture term, Wednesday, May 30th. The examination of the candidates for degrees was conducted by Dr. Graves, of Lowell, and D. Pierce, Esq., of this place, delegates from Waterville College, and Doctors Denison and Huntington, delegates from the Vermont Medical Society. On the day of Commencement Dr. Palmer delivered an address to the graduates, which was published. The Clinical School of Medicine had thus far, since its organization in 1829, moved on with steady improvements and with increasing popularity. But

troubles began to arise about this time, and in the fall of 1833, disputes over rival claims to the headship and control of the institution threatened for a season to destroy it.

On the 27th of December, 1833, the following notice appeared :

“In pursuance of the order of the Faculty of the Clinical School of Medicine, I am required to give notice to the inhabitants of Woodstock and its vicinity, requesting them to meet at the court-house on Monday evening next at 6 o'clock P. M., to take into consideration the business in relation to said school, to give such advice as they think proper, and devise ways and means for its prosperity.

JOSIAH CHANDLER, JR.,

“Sec. of the Clin. Sch. of Med., *pro tem.*

“Dec. 27, 1833.”

In accordance with the above notice, a large number of citizens of Woodstock and vicinity convened at the court-house; the meeting being opened, the Hon. Job Lyman was chosen moderator, and Titus Hutchinson, Jr., clerk. “On motion, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to propose resolutions for the consideration of the meeting, viz.: Lysander Raymond, Gardner Winslow, and Josiah Chandler, Jr., Esquires, who made the following report:—

“‘Your committee have taken into consideration the subject referred to them, and as it is a fact generally known and admitted that the Clinical School of Medicine in this place was projected and carried into successful operation essentially by the exertions of Doctor Joseph A. Gallup, they would recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:—

“‘1. *Resolved*, That it is the wish of this meeting that Doctor Gallup would still continue his exertions, and use such measures as he may think proper, to continue the school, and to make it still more respectable and useful, and in so doing we will give him our support and influence.

“‘2. *Resolved*, That we deprecate any schisms that have occurred, and we disapprove of any person or persons interfering and attempting to assume the name and style of the school to themselves.

“‘3. *Resolved*, That we will render our influence in procuring the passage of the bill now before the legislature of this State, into an act of incorporation of the above-mentioned Clinical School of Medicine.’

“ On motion of Mr. Metcalf, —

“ *Resolved*, That Captain Charles Dana, and Captain Edmund S. Hayden be a committee to procure subscriptions for the erection of a medical college during the ensuing year. The above resolutions, after discussion and without opposition, were adopted.

JOB LYMAN, *Moderator*.

“ TITUS HUTCHINSON, Jr., *Secretary*.”

But the strife between the two rival sections was now fast hastening to a crisis. In the course of a few weeks two advertisements appeared, each bearing date January 20, 1834, each headed “ Clinical School of Medicine at Woodstock, Vermont,” and each announcing the commencement of the annual course of lectures on Thursday, the 6th of March next. The board of lecturers in one case consisted of Doctors Gallup, Lewis, Emmons, Deane, Thompson, and Flint, and Isaac N. Cushman, Esq. In the other of Doctors Childs, D’Wolf, Jr., Parker, Palmer, and Russell. This twofold aspect of the medical school created some confusion in the general mind, and it was remarked by way of comment on this condition of things, that Woodstock was the only city in the United States, with the exception of Philadelphia, which could boast of its two medical schools.

But this anomalous state of things could not continue long, and steps were now taken in earnest to arrange matters; as a result, harmony was restored among the conflicting parties, and a satisfactory agreement obtained by the transfer on the part of Dr. Gallup of all his rights and property in the institution to the gentlemen who had adopted the views of his former colleagues. The doctor thereupon gave public notice that he had abdicated the school, and should have nothing more to do with it as instructor or proprietor. He had told with considerable feeling the story of his labors and expenses for two years in attempting to get the school in operation. For the course of lectures in 1827, and previous expenditures, he found himself five hundred dollars out of pocket, so much did the expense of the course exceed the income, and for other expenses and advances about five hundred dollars more, before commencing lectures with Dr. Parker in 1830.¹ In the controversy now happily closed, the sympathies of a large part of the public naturally went with Dr.

¹ See *Brief Exposition*.

Gallup; yet the result reached was, doubtless, conducive to the welfare and prosperity of the school.

For three years, beginning with 1830, degrees were conferred upon the graduates of this school by Waterville College. From 1833 to 1837, inclusive, they were conferred by the president of Middlebury College, and a permanent connection between the two institutions was formed for this purpose by act of the college corporation, bearing date August 21, 1834. This connection was severed June 6, 1837. By act of the Legislature of Vermont, passed October 26, 1835, the school was incorporated an *Independent Medical College*, and the charter declared that the trustees should have power to give and confer all such medical degrees, honors, diplomas, or licenses, as are usually given or conferred in college or medical institutions. The act of incorporation also directed that a Board of Examiners should be annually appointed by the judges of the Supreme Court.

On the 20th day of April, 1836, the following-named persons, constituted a corporation by the above-named act, met as provided in said act, viz. : David Palmer, M. D., Henry H. Childs, M. D., Willard Parker, M. D., Rev. Benjamin C. C. Parker, John A. Pratt, Esquire.

“On motion, Dr. Palmer was appointed chairman, and Dr. Parker, secretary.

“On motion, *Voted*, that the members of this corporation do accept as the charter and constitution the said act of the legislature entitled, ‘An act incorporating a Medical Institution in Woodstock.’

“On motion, Norman Williams was elected a member of said corporation.

“On motion, Ordered that a committee of three be appointed to prepare and report by-laws for said corporation, and thereupon the following persons were appointed such committee, viz. : Dr. Childs, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Pratt. The meeting adjourned.”

The college, at the time of its incorporation, created four professorships, which covered all the branches of instruction afterwards taught, except that of pathological anatomy. They were filled by Henry H. Childs, Willard Parker, David Palmer, and Robert Watts, Jr. Norman Williams, secretary of the trustees of the college from its incorporation, was at the same time made lecturer on medical jurisprudence, and continued giving instruc-

tion in this branch about four years, when he resigned, and Jacob Collamer was chosen, who, saving a short intermission, served in this department to the end.

The prospects of the institution continued now to brighten, and the number of students increased beyond the most sanguine expectations of its friends. This rendered necessary the erection of a new building for the purpose of medical lectures and instruction. By the liberality of the medical faculty and the citizens of the town, such a building was put up in the summer of 1839 on land purchased of Dr. John D. Powers, and was so far completed as to be in readiness for the course of lectures of 1840.

The several chairs, after undergoing many changes, were filled in 1843 by the seven gentlemen under whose administration the school attained its highest prosperity. The Faculty now included Henry H. Childs, Jacob Collamer, Alonzo Clark, Benjamin R. Palmer, Elisha Bartlett, Edward M. Moore, and Chester Dewey. These gentlemen continued instructors in the school without any break in their number till the lecture term for 1851, when Dr. Dewey's place in the Faculty was supplied by Dr. Antisell. After the close of the session of 1854, none of the above-named gentlemen appeared among the list of instructors, except Jacob Collamer; but a new Faculty, so to speak, assumed charge of the school at the session of 1855.

At the close of the session of the college in June, 1856, communications from Doctors Lee, Dalton, Sanborn, Thayer, and Porter, resigning their professorships, were received at a meeting of the Board of Trustees held the 14th day of the month, and were severally read and laid on the table for further consideration. They were taken from the table at an adjourned meeting of the Board held the 9th day of September following, considered, and on motion of Mr. Johnson, ordered to be accepted. After this, several meetings and consultations of the Board were held in relation to the affairs of the college, but nothing was accomplished, and no further sessions of the institution were held after this year.

September, 1861, Charles Chapman and Philo Hatch were appointed agents of the Trustees to negotiate the sale of the real estate and personal property belonging to the corporation. This was accomplished the following year, and on the 11th day of October, 1862, the college edifice and lot were exposed for sale at public auction, and were sold to Edwin Hazen, he being the highest bidder. At the same time the various articles of per-

sonal property belonging to the corporation were disposed of ; and with these proceedings closed the affairs of the Vermont Medical College at Woodstock.

The following is a list of the Presidents of the College after its incorporation in 1835-36 : —

Henry H. Childs, from April 27, 1836, to April 17, 1839.

David Palmer, from April 17, 1839, to October 22, 1840.

Henry H. Childs, from April 26, 1841, to April 22, 1846.

Benjamin R. Palmer, from April 22, 1846, to June 19, 1855.

Jacob Collamer, from June 19, 1855, to October, 1862.

The list of Professors and Lecturers in the institution, from its beginning in 1827, as given below, is supposed to be nearly correct : —

Joseph A. Gallup, from March, 1827, to February, 1834.

Joseph McKean,¹ in 1827.

Frederick A. Willard, from 1827, to 1832.

Luther Cross,² in 1829.

Willard Parker,³ from March, 1830, to 1838.

David Palmer, from March, 1830, to October 22, 1840.

Fay Edgerton,⁴ in 1832.

John DeWolf, from 1832, to 1835.

Henry H. Childs, from 1834, to June 20, 1854.

W. P. Russell, from 1834, to 1836.⁵

Robert Watts, Jr.,⁶ from 1835, to 1841.

Norman Williams, from 1837, to 1839.

Gilman Kimball,⁶ from 1837, to 1841.

¹ Died at Boston, on the 4th of April, 1839, Dr. Joseph McKean, aged 39.

² Dr. Lewis Emmons, Sept. 21, 1870, who in 1829 was one of Dr. Gallup's students, informed me of this fact.

³ Resigned his professorship June 11, 1839 ; connection with the college severed by vote of Trustees, May 6, 1842. "Willard Parker, M. D., late of Cincinnati, and formerly a lecturer in the Medical College in this town, has been appointed lecturer in surgery by the trustees of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the city of New York, in place of Dr. A. G. Smith, resigned." (*Vt. Mercury*, May 24, 1839.)

⁴ "Died in this village, on Wednesday last, Mr. Fay Edgerton, of Bennington, Professor of Chemistry in the Clinical School of Medicine in this place, aged 28 years. We understand his remains will be

conveyed to Bennington previous to interment." (*American Whig*, April 30, 1832.)

⁵ Connection with the college severed by vote of Trustees, May 6, 1842. Demonstrator of Anatomy, 1833.

⁶ At a meeting of the Trustees, June 11, 1839, —

"Resolved, That the selection by the faculty of Dr. Gilman Kimball, of Lowell, Mass., as lecturer in Surgery for the years 1837, 1838 & 1839, be and the same is hereby approved and confirmed. On motion, the Board of Trustees proceeded to the election of a Professor of Surgery, and Gilman Kimball was duly elected."

At a meeting of the Trustees, May 6, 1842, the following resolution was read and passed : —

"Resolved, That as Willard Parker, Gilman Kimball and Robert Watts, Jun., have voluntarily ceased their duties as

Elisha Bartlett,¹ from 1839, to 1852.
 Jacob Collamer, from 1839, to 1862.
 Phinehas Spalding, April 26, 1841.²
 Alonzo Clark, from June 8, 1841, to October 7, 1854.
 Benjamin R. Palmer, from June 8, 1841, to November 22, 1854.
 Frank H. Hamilton, in 1842.
 Joseph B. Clark, in 1842.
 Edward M. Moore, from February 14, 1843, to June 20, 1854.
 Chester Dewey, from February 14, 1843, to November 28, 1850.
 Thomas Antisell, from January 16, 1851, to June 20, 1854.
 Ebenezer K. Sanborn, from October 7, 1854, to September 9, 1856.
 John C. Dalton, from October 7, 1854, to September 9, 1856.
 William H. Thayer, from October 7, 1854, to September 9, 1856.
 Charles A. Lee, from November 2, 1854, to September 9, 1856.
 George T. Elliot, from November 2, 1854, to September 14, 1855.
 Ezra M. Hunt, in 1854.
 John A. Porter, from March, 1855, to August 10, 1855.
 Charles H. Porter, from August 10, 1855, to September 9, 1856.
 John W. S. Gouley, from September 14, 1855, to September 9, 1856.

A sketch of Dr. Joseph A. Gallup, the founder of the Vermont Medical College, seems to come in properly here, and this is followed by brief notices of Doctors David Palmer, Benjamin R. Palmer, and Elisha Bartlett.

DR. JOSEPH A. GALLUP.

Joadam or Joseph A. Gallup was the son of William Gallup and Lucy Denison, and was born March 30, 1769, in Stonington, Conn. The family moved from Connecticut to Vermont in 1775, and settled in Hartland. The father, William Gallup, was born also in Stonington, January 16, 1735. After moving to Vermont he became a prominent man in the political movements that led to the independence of the State; having been elected a

professors and trustees of this College, their connection with the institution as professors and trustees is thereby dissolved."

¹ "At a meeting of the Board of Trustees October 7, 1854; on motion, *Resolved* that the chair of *Materia Medica* heretofore filled by Dr. Elisha Bartlett, by reason of the ill health and absence for the last two lecture terms (of said Bartlett) be considered vacant." In

the catalogues of the college, so far as observed, Professor Bartlett's name does not appear as one of the members of the Faculty till 1844.

² Elected to supply the place of Dr. Lyman Bartlett as lecturer in the department of Surgery, who declined. Thanks of the Board of Trustees presented to him at close of lecture term, for the readiness with which he supplied the vacant chair of Surgery for the term.

member of the convention that met at Dorset, September 25, 1776, and at Westminster, January 15, 1777, and a delegate of the convention that met at Windsor in July following, at which was framed the first Constitution of the State. He was a man of slender literary attainments, but he possessed a sound judgment, a good knowledge of men and things, and might be styled a man of clear and enlightened common sense. "He was a Whig to the core," and was steadfast from the beginning in support of the Revolutionary War. He was a man of fixed religious character, very hospitable, having his doors always open and his table always spread for the destitute and hungry, whether acquaintance or strangers. He died August 13, 1803. Joseph A. Gallup took up the profession of medicine, and about the age of twenty-one was established in practice at Bethel, in this State.¹ Under what physician he studied is not known, but after having been in practice a few years he deemed it best to take his degree at some public institution, and graduated at Hanover Medical School in 1798. In the fall of 1799 he closed out his business in Bethel and moved to Woodstock. Here he purchased the shop "lately occupied by Dr. Abraham Hedge" as a drug-store, on the easterly side of the Common, and the dwelling-house near by, which continued to be his place of residence through his whole life in Woodstock. He began the practice of physic and surgery in this community, February 1, 1800, and besides following his regular profession, was for many years extensively engaged in mercantile business, in connection with Sylvester Edson, E. S. Hayden, Lewis F. Gallup, and others.

Dr. Gallup early acquired a high reputation throughout the State in his profession.² He was also early active as well as persevering in his efforts to advance the character of the profession, by the establishment of medical institutions in the State,

¹ "Dr. Joseph A. Gallup is appointed Surgeon to the 1st Regiment 3d Brigade of Militia in the State of Vermont.

GEORGE DENISON, Col.

Hartland, May 26, 1792."

"The malignant sore throat did not appear at Bethel, where I then lived (1793), until two years later." (Dr. Gallup, *Epidemics*, p. 39.)

² The doctor must have been the first one to introduce and practise inoculating

for the kine or cow-pox in this community. See his advertisement in the *Vermont Journal* for January 11, 1803. Nahum Trask was inoculating at Windsor at the same time. Any patient, after passing through the disorder, who still had doubts as to its efficacy had opportunity for testing it by being inoculated gratis with the SMALL-POX by Dr. Drew, at his hospital in Woodstock.

being an original member of the Windsor County Medical Society, incorporated October 27, 1812, and of the Vermont Medical Society, incorporated November 6, 1813. Of the County Society he was chosen vice-president for the year 1814-15, and vice-president of the State Society for the year 1817-18. Being elected president of the State Society for the year 1818-19, he held that position for nine or more consecutive years. The medical school at Castleton was incorporated October 29, 1818, under the title of the Vermont Academy of Medicine. In this institution Dr. Gallup, in 1821, was appointed Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.

The following year he was elected president of the corporation, and served as president and professor in the institution till 1825. His connection with the medical school in Castleton then ceased, and in that year he was appointed Professor of *Materia Medica* in the Medical School at Burlington, filling the chair for one year. After that, he became interested in establishing the Clinical School at Woodstock, and the part he took in carrying that institution through its early stages has been related elsewhere.

In 1835 Dr. Gallup moved to Boston, where he remained a few years. He afterwards returned to Woodstock, and died in this village, October 12, 1849, and is buried in Hartland.

Dr. Gallup was the author of several medical works. The one upon "Epidemics," published in 1815, is still held in high esteem. A more elaborate work was the one on the "Institutes of Medicine," in two volumes, published in 1839. He did much other literary work in the line of his profession.

Dr. Gallup was married to Abigail Willard, September, 1792. Their children were: Lewis F. Gallup, born May 22, 1793, died at Woodstock, June 8, 1866, and is buried in Hartland; Harriet A. Gallup, born October 10, 1794, married Benjamin F. Mower, who died in 1837, was afterwards married to Timothy P. Fay, and died at Woodstock, March 29, 1867; George G. Gallup, born March 16, 1806, died in Boston.

Dr. Gallup's religious preferences were Episcopalian. In the absence of any church of that order during the first years of his residence in Woodstock, he supported the Congregational Society, and contributed to the building of the Congregational Church in the North Parish.

In the fall of 1810 he was converted under the preaching of

Elder Plummer, in this vicinity, and by him was baptized in a pool in the South Branch, just below the Jail bridge. After the Episcopal Church was established in this village, in 1827, he united with others in support of that church.

The doctor was a man of peculiar temperament; somewhat strict and stern in his discipline, but amenable to correction if applied in the right way. During the second year of his presidency of the Castleton Medical School, in the lecture term he was absent from the lecture-room many times when the students thought he might be present, but would excuse himself on the plea of toothache or rheumatic pains.¹ On a certain day, when the hour was come for the president to lecture, but no president appeared, a solemn procession of students was seen to issue from the college building, with streamers of crape on their hats and arms, and preceded by some of their number, bearing on their shoulders what seemed to be a coffin. The procession moved slowly down the street till it came to the president's house, where there was a halt and a change of bearers. It then proceeded to the burying-ground, the coffin was deposited at the gate, and the students, retracing their steps to the college in the same slow and solemn order, and without uttering a word through the whole proceeding, were back in their seats at the ringing of the bell for the next lecture. The following day the president was in his chair before the class assembled, and was not absent again during the course. He never referred to the subject, and ever after the students treated him with great respect.²

DR. DAVID PALMER.

David Palmer was the son of respectable parents, in moderate circumstances, who resided on one of the back farms in the town of Castleton, in this State. He was born the 15th day of June, 1789, and was the oldest of twelve children, four of whom were sons, and eight were daughters. As being the oldest son, David's father designed that he should follow the occupation of a farmer, and this might have been the result, but for an irrepressible longing after an education which early developed in David's mind and would not be set aside for any obstacle. He was taught to read by his mother, who was obliged to keep him at

¹ Beyond question, these "rheumatic pains" were a solid reality in the after part of the doctor's life.

² *Looking Back*, p. 83.

home on account of the distance from there to the public school, which was two miles off. His fondness for reading soon exhibited itself. The first, and for some time the only book, however, to which he had access, was the Bible. This he read again and again, till at length he found that unconsciously he had committed large portions of it to memory. Other books, indeed, he looked for, but these were not to be had, and for some years he was fain to be content with the reading of the Bible.

As the children grew up, he found in one of his sisters a friend to sympathize with him in his fondness for reading, and to share with him in this delightful pastime. To this sister he read aloud many volumes which he was able to borrow of a friend of the family, embracing such works as Plutarch's Lives, Rollin's Ancient History, and other works of similar character. This reading was done after the day's work was ended, and by the light of the fire on the kitchen hearth, which was kept up with shavings from the shop and pine knots heaped on, no other light, from motives of economy, being allowed the two children while indulging in such literary treat.

To this fondness for books and desire after an education, David's father gave no encouragement, but the mother was of a different mind. She assisted David in such ways as she could, by procuring books for him to read, and speaking words of comfort to him in his moments of despondency, and she entered into his design of educating himself not less, perhaps, from motives of maternal affection, than from her superior discernment of his capacities and fitness for a professional life. At the age of eighteen, with his father's leave, he attended the Castleton Academy one term, which, with two winters of interrupted attendance at the district school, constituted the whole amount of public instruction he ever received. While at the academy, he had enlarged access to books, and also, under the care of Dr. Gridley, took some of the preparatory steps for studying medicine.

At the age of nineteen, probably without the consent and approbation of his father, the young man left home and went to Middletown, Vt., where he began the study of medicine under Dr. Clarke. At that time he taught school through the winter, and in the summer season labored on a farm. In the mean while any spare time he had, including his evenings, was given to study. Nor is it in the least to his discredit if, during this somewhat trying period of his life, he was a little ragged and rough

in his exterior, or if, after his board was paid, he first bought books, and then bought clothes. In these respects he was merely passing through somewhat similar experience with other poverty-stricken aspirants after knowledge who had gone before him.

When the necessary course of studies had been completed, he settled, in 1812, in practice for himself at Clarendon, where he remained in professional labor, with increasing reputation, till 1822, in which year he removed to Poultney. Not feeling satisfied to remain in that place, he removed thence, in the year 1825, to Thetford, where his practice soon became much enlarged, and in consequence his worldly circumstances greatly improved. He first took an interest in the Medical School in this village during a visit to Woodstock in 1828, and had at the time some expectation of engaging in the enterprise and giving chemical lectures, but nothing came of the matter at that time. In the spring of 1830, when the school was organized, he came over from Thetford, and gave four or six lectures on *Materia Medica* at the institution, and returned home. The following summer he moved to Woodstock and began the practice of medicine in this place, and was in company with Dr. Willard Parker for a short time.¹ At the same time with his establishment here he became one of the instructors in the Medical School, and remained connected with it till his death at Pittsfield, October 22, 1840.

DR. BENJAMIN R. PALMER.

Benjamin R. Palmer, son of David Palmer, was born in Clarendon, Vt., in 1813. He graduated at Dartmouth College in the class of 1831, pursued the study of medicine with his father, and took his degree of M. D. at the Clinical School in this village, June, 1834. He not very long after established himself in the practice of medicine at Belchertown, Mass., remaining there till the summer of 1840, when he came to Woodstock and opened an office over the store of O. A. Bryant & Co., the 15th day of July. His first students were Edwin Hazen, Joseph H. Streeter, and Osmon L. Huntley. In the spring of 1841 he gave his first

¹ NOTICE.

The subscribers have formed a partnership for the practice of Medicine and Surgery, and now offer their professional services to the inhabitants of Woodstock and vicinity. During the temporary absence of Dr. Parker, calls will be answered

by Dr. Palmer, at the office formerly occupied by Dr. Gibson.

DAVID PALMER,
WILLARD PARKER.

Woodstock, Aug. 30, 1830.

course of lectures in the Vermont Medical College, and was soon after made Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in that institution; also in the Berkshire Medical College, Pittsfield, Mass. In 1850 and 1851 he gave the course in that department in the Buffalo Medical College, and in 1852 and 1853 he gave the same course in Transylvania Medical College, Louisville, Ky. In October, 1854, he left Woodstock, closing his connection with the Medical College here, and settled in Louisville, and became permanently connected with the Medical College in that city, occupying the chair of Surgery for the last few years of his life. He died at Louisville on the morning of July 4, 1865. Dr. Palmer married Miss A. D. Graves, of Brandon, Vt., whose acquaintance he made the summer of 1835, when the young lady was a member of Mrs. Harriet B. Cooke's select school, then flourishing in this village.

DR. ELISHA BARTLETT.

Elisha Bartlett was born at Smithfield, R. I., the 6th day of October, 1804. He was the son of Otis and Wait Bartlett, who resided in Smithfield, and were members of the Society of Friends. He attended medical lectures at Boston and Providence, and took his degree of M. D. at the medical department in Brown University in 1828.

After his graduation at the school of Brown University he still further pursued his medical studies at Paris, under distinguished teachers, and on his return from Paris took up his residence in Lowell, Mass., and when, in 1836, Lowell was raised to the rank of a city, he was elected its first mayor. He was elected to a professorship in Pittsfield Medical School in 1832, holding this place many years. In 1841 he accepted a professorship in Transylvania University, Lexington, Ky., where he remained six years, and then spent one year at Louisville. During this period of his life he filled most acceptably, for nearly ten years, the chair of Materia Medica and Obstetrics in the Vermont Medical College, Woodstock.

Finally he was called to an important professorship in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in the city of New York, where he continued to labor for three years. Compelled at last by failing health to give up his position in this college, he retired to the paternal estate in Smithfield, where he died the 19th day of July, 1855.

CHAPTER XIV.

NEWSPAPERS.

IN October, 1804, proposals were issued by Isaiah H. Carpenter for publishing in Woodstock (Vermont) a weekly newspaper, to be entitled "The Northern Memento." The terms and conditions of publication were as follows: —

"I. The Northern Memento will be published every week on the day which will best accord with the arrival of the mail.

"II. It shall be printed with a handsome Type and good Paper, as large as either of the *Windsor* papers.

"III. The price will be *One Dollar and Fifty Cents* per annum delivered at the office.

"IV. If sufficient encouragement should be offered, the publication will be commenced some time in May next, of which previous information will be given."

Subscription papers were circulated, and soon one hundred and twenty-four names were secured, as appears from the copies still preserved, and doubtless other names were added to the list, although the number of subscribers at the outside must have been rather small. In any event Carpenter deemed he had sufficient encouragement to proceed with the enterprise. He was not without some experience in the business, having served an apprenticeship in the printing-office at Windsor, and having set up a printing-press a little while before this in Barnard, where he published several books, some of which are still in existence. He had his printing-office in a one-story red house on the west side of the Common, a building for many years after its erection in 1795 variously occupied as a dwelling-house in one end, with doctor's office, store, printing-office, or shoemaker's shop in the other end. In recent times it has been made over, and is now the property of Doctor Walling. The first number of the "Northern Memento" appeared May 16, 1805. The paper was a fair one for the times, not much behind the Windsor papers in ability of management, and had a fair share of advertising.

However, the community was not yet quite prepared to sustain a local newspaper, and some time in February, 1806, the "Northern Memento" was discontinued. One reminiscence in passing may be noted down. In its columns used to appear at intervals, much to the distress of his excellent father, Jesse Williams, original pieces of poetry from the pen of Norman Williams, who was then fitting for college here.

Several years passed before the attempt was renewed to establish a newspaper in this village. In 1818 David Watson settled in Woodstock as a printer. In the fall of the following year the idea arose in his mind that it would be a good move to start a newspaper here, an idea promptly encouraged by others. Isaac N. Cushman, then a promising lawyer residing in the village, wrote a prospectus of a paper which he called "The Censor," and of which he expected to be the editor. But he was thought to be of too sanguine a temperament for such an undertaking, and Watson's friends advised him not to employ Cushman to edit his paper. So it was coming out without an editor. "A few days before the first number of the 'Woodstock Observer' was issued, a barn very near my house was burned. I had occasion to make a card, and this led me to make an article about the fire, and that led to another article. The next week I wrote something more, and found that I wrote all that was written for the paper, until at length I found that I had become the editor, and indeed I continued editor of this paper about two years."¹

Watson remained printer and manager of the paper till the 11th of November, 1823, when he gave notice to the public, "that being unable to pay that attention to the publication of the paper which the patronage it has received demands, he has transferred it to Mr. Rufus Colton, who served his time at this office, and who will now have it under his immediate control." Colton remained general editor and publisher of the paper from this time till it was discontinued in 1832. In 1827-28 he had Benjamin F. Kendall for assistant editor, and in 1830 B. F. Fellows. Colton made of the "Observer" a readable, spicy paper. The selections were usually good; never low-toned or profane. His editorials were short, commonly with some point to them, often very personal; but editorial warfare was the rule among local newspapers in the days when Colton flourished. His man-

¹ Norman Williams, from his journal.

ner was for the most part to set up his editorials without using any manuscript, all the while keeping up a humming noise, if his thoughts were occupied upon something of special interest. At the beginning of a new volume of the "Observer" with the opening of the new year, he generally made his bow to the public. We learn from the address to the patrons of the paper, January, 1828, that the entire receipts of the "Observer" were not sufficient to meet the expenses of publishing it, and nothing but the hope of seeing better times persuaded the editor to continue the issue of it. In his annual address two years later he says, among other things: "We have not been blessed with the means of obtaining the 'pomp the schools have taught,' — we are versed in none of their lore save that we have snatched by the midnight lamp from the hard-wrought hours of apprenticeship, when the nights were hardly sufficient to rest the weary limbs of their daily toil." All which might be true, but a change of some habits, and more careful attention to business, might have given a different issue to Mr. Colton's life here, and possibly have carried the "Woodstock Observer" through all its trials, down even to the present time. As it turned out, the paper was discontinued in the month of June, 1832, and Colton at the same time abruptly disappeared from these parts.¹

The office of the "Woodstock Observer" was established, to begin with, in the brick building on the Common, then known as Raymond's store, now Park Cottage, and from this place the first number was issued the 11th day of January, 1820. In May following, Watson moved his office into the second story of the new brick building on Central Street, being the first erected in what was afterwards known as "Edson's Row" or "Edson's Buildings." On the 17th day of August, 1824, it was removed from this place to the chambers over the store of H. B. & O. N. Dana, in the old Union Hall Block. Here the office remained till November 29, 1825, when it was moved back to its old place in Edson's block.

The prospectus of the "Christian Repository," edited by Samuel C. Loveland, was issued April 21, 1820. According to this

¹ "The *Woodstock Observer*, which has been published in this place about fifteen years, has been discontinued." — (*Vermont Courier*, June 15, 1832.)

For something more about Colton, see note at the end of this chapter.

prospectus, the paper was to be devoted to doctrine, morality, and religious intelligence. Obituary notices, interesting anecdotes, and aphorisms were occasionally to find a place in its columns. The matter mostly to be original from the pen of the editor and others, the selections to be the best the editor could make from the authors at his command; to be published quarterly, each number to contain thirty-six pages, duodecimo, and "sent to any part of the country where conveyance is practicable, at fifty cents a year." David Watson, printer.¹

The first number of the "Repository" was issued June or July, 1820; the third number, January, 1821, was enlarged to forty-eight pages. Mr. Loveland continued editor and proprietor till June, 1825, when the "Repository" passed into the hands of Rev. Robert Bartlett, of Hartland, who conducted it for three years, ending June, 1828. The paper commenced its ninth periodical year under the direction of its original editor and proprietor. It had been fairly sustained in the mean time, and could claim to be next after the "Universalist Magazine" in Boston, the oldest periodical in the connection, besides being the only one of that description in Vermont.

Mr. Loveland continued editor of the "Repository" through the current year, and then disposed of the concern to William Bell, who was then living in Springfield, Vt. Mr. Bell moved to Woodstock the 1st of May, 1829, to take charge of the paper and make some important changes in the mode and manner of issuing it. Hitherto the "Repository" had been published bi-monthly, except that for a short time at the outset it was published as a quarterly. The distance at which the former editors resided from the printing-office had made it inconvenient to publish the paper oftener, and this was one important reason why the work was transferred. Mr. Bell converted it into a weekly, and changed the title to "Universalist Watchman and Repository." The first number under the new arrangement was issued in April, 1829, the second number on the 9th day of May, just four weeks later. In the third number Mr. Bell indulged in some rhymes after the following manner:—

MORE WISHING.

I wish, though strange I must confess,
I wish the "Watchman" much success;

¹ See *Woodstock Observer*, June 20, 1820.

I wish it worthy to be prized,
 I wish it might be patronized ;
 I wish to all health, happiness,
 I wish more than I can express ;
 I wish my brethren to be well,
 I wish the same to W . . . B

Number 1 of volume II. was issued May 1, 1830 ; William Bell, editor ; William Bell and E. Avery, proprietors ; E. Avery, printer ; and the title was further lengthened to "Universalist Watchman, Repository and Chronicle."

With the beginning of volume IV. Warren Skinner and Kittridge Haven were united with Mr. Bell as associate editors. Under the conduct of these gentlemen the paper continued to the close of the fifth volume, new series, when J. W. Austin and B. H. Fuller purchased the establishment and removed the same to Montpelier, and the first number of volume VI. was issued under their management, May 31, 1834.

On the 8th of March, 1821, Rev. Walter Chapin, pastor of the Congregational Church in this place, put forth the prospectus of a small missionary paper, called the "Evangelical Monitor." It was to be published once a fortnight, at fifty cents a year. The first number was issued April 14, 1821. On the 26th of January, 1822, proposals were given out for enlarging the "Monitor." The editor gratefully acknowledged the liberal patronage extended to the publication thus far, especially in this State and in the neighboring parts of New Hampshire and New York. In compliance with the wishes of many of his patrons requesting an enlargement of the "Monitor," he proposed to continue the paper on the present plan, and after the completion of the first volume to issue likewise a whole sheet once a fortnight, should a sufficient number of subscribers be obtained to warrant the expense. For various reasons, however, the "Evangelical Monitor," at the end of the second year, was discontinued, though in many respects it was quite a meritorious publication. David Watson was the printer.

The first number of a religious paper called the "Gospel Banner" was issued in this village the 4th day of August, 1827. Jasper Hazen and Abner D. Jones were the editors, and Rufus Colton printer, and it was to be published semi-monthly. For some reason the publication of the second number was long after the appointed time, and the editors gave notice in the "Ob-

server" of September 11 that they could not issue the second number as soon as intended, but it might be expected the first week in October, as they had determined to proceed with the work. At the end of the first volume the "Gospel Banner" was discontinued, and the list of subscribers, with the good-will of the concern, was transferred to the "Gospel Luminary," published in the city of New York.¹

In 1828 David Watson started a newspaper called the "Vermont Inquirer," but as the publication met with no encouragement, it was discontinued after the issue of a few numbers.

About this period newspapers began to multiply in Woodstock. The great anti-Masonic movement, that fifty years ago spread so widely through the country, by the year 1829 had made considerable progress here, and began to affect local and State politics. The prospectus for an anti-Masonic paper to be published in this village began to be circulated about the middle of November, 1829.² A part of the plan was to discontinue the "Vermont Luminary," printed at Randolph, and unite it with the paper to be started here. All things being now ready, the first number of this paper was issued the 6th day of January, 1830, under the title of "American Whig, Vermont Luminary and Equal Rights." It was to be published every Wednesday morning at No. 9 Edson's Row, under the direction of the Windsor County anti-Masonic Committee.³ "\$2.00 per annum. Joseph Hemenway, E. J. W. Holbrook, publishers."

The cause of the long title was this. The paper embraced three distinct subscription lists, namely, that of the "Vermont Luminary," as above, and that of the "Equal Rights," a newspaper which began life at Chester in November, 1829, and now was absorbed in the "American Whig;"⁴ the third list embracing the new subscribers to the paper after it began to be published at Woodstock.⁵ But at the beginning of the second vol-

¹ Rev. Jasper Hazen.

² See *Woodstock Observer*, Nov. 24.

³ Jabez Delano, R. Makepeace Ransom, Willard Bowman.

⁴ In the issue of the *American Whig* for November 24, 1830, the editor remarks that the present number of his paper begins the second volume of the *Equal Rights*, started just one year ago, in Chester.

⁵ In a note addressed to advertisers, towards the end of the first year, the editor of the *Whig* states, "We now issue from the office of the *Whig* 1464 papers weekly, being nearly equal the number of any two printed in this place, or even in the County of Windsor, save the *Vermont Chronicle*, which prints about the same number."

ume the paper took the simple title of "American Whig," which it retained to the end.

The printing-office of the "American Whig" was established at first in Amos Cutler's shop, No. 9 Edson's Row, on the second floor, and over the jeweller's shop kept by Nathaniel Waldron. October 27, 1830, the office was removed to the new brick building recently erected by Blish & Roby. On the 17th day of November Hemenway & Holbrook dissolved partnership. Holbrook withdrew, and Hemenway went on with the publication of the "Whig," as usual. Then, on the 3d day of January, 1831, Ferdinand Sherwin assumed the publication of the paper, no change being made in the editorial department. About the same time a report spread abroad that the "American Whig" was to be removed to some other place, or to be discontinued, which report the editor deemed it necessary to deny with some emphasis.

On the 27th of April, 1832, the name of Samuel Hemenway, Jr., appeared as proprietor of the "Whig," with Joseph Hemenway and Samuel Hemenway, Jr., as editors. This connection lasted till the 8th of June following, when Ferdinand Sherwin resumed the proprietorship of the "Whig," and S. Hemenway, Jr., bowed himself out of the concern in his "prettiest" manner. At the beginning of the fourth volume Joseph Hemenway informed his patrons that if the "American Whig" was to be continued, it must be done by him. He therefore announced that henceforth he was to be printer, publisher, and editor thereof.

On the 18th of January, 1833, the office of the "Whig" was removed from Blish & Roby's building to the three-story brick building of T. Hutchinson, Jr., on Elm Street, occupying the rooms where now is the office of Drs. Richmond & Sherwin. During the year further changes took place. In the "Whig" for June 28 Joseph Hemenway announced to the patrons of the paper that his proprietorship of the same ceased with the present number. The establishment would now pass into other hands, by whom the "Whig" would be continued on the same terms as heretofore. This was a critical time for the existence of the paper. It was now floating along nominally without a head, Hemenway indeed continuing "printer" till into August, when his name for a period disappears from all connection with the paper. In this state of affairs, the stockholders of the

"American Whig" were requested to meet at the Eagle Hotel in this village, Saturday, the 28th of September, to consider matters. No change, however, in the condition and management of things is named until, in the "Whig" for December 6, Joseph Hemenway announces to his old friends that quite unexpectedly to himself he has resumed charge of the paper. He states about this time that the expenses of the office are great, the paper-maker's bill alone, which does not cover half the expenses, being about ten dollars per week.

Hemenway now continued to have sole charge of the "Whig" till the close of the year 1834, when he bade a final adieu to the patrons of the paper, and the "Whig" passed into the hands of Henry L. Anthony, publisher and editor. In conclusion, Hemenway made a solemn call upon all indebted to him, remarking that, after an experiment of more than five years in printing for glory, he found that something more substantial was necessary to support himself and family.

Under the management of Henry L. Anthony the "Whig" became somewhat modified in character. It was now less exclusively anti-Masonic, assumed more of a literary tone, and the selections were of a more varied quality than heretofore found in this newspaper. On the 18th day of September, 1835, the office was removed from the old Bank building on Elm Street to the front part of the building occupied by C. K. Smith's power-press, on Central Street, opposite the jail. Here the "American Whig" found an end, with the close of the year, and the following notice appeared in the "Republican and Courier" for January 8, 1836:—

NOTICE.

The subscriber being necessitated to close his concerns with the American Whig, takes this opportunity of apprising all those who may be in arrears for the Whig, or for advertising the last year, that he has disposed of his accounts to Charles K. Smith, with whom they are required to make immediate payment.

HENRY L. ANTHONY.

WOODSTOCK, Jan. 7, 1836.

About the year 1829 there was organized in this village the "Woodstock Free Reading Society." The professed object of this society was to promote the circulation and reading of such

liberal tracts and periodicals of the day, and such other works as "are calculated to rub off the rust of prejudice, promote morality, and expose priestcraft and other evils." Such a society must have an organ, and therefore in the month of March, 1829, was issued the first number of "Liberal Extracts," an octavo of eight pages, published by Nahum Haskell the first Monday in every month. The publication continued one year, and was then discontinued. Just previous to the issue of the last number, that is, on the 29th of January, being the anniversary of the birth of Thomas Paine, at a meeting called for that purpose at the house of Colonel Jonas Cutting, a constitution for the "Woodstock Free Reading Society," embracing seven articles, was presented and adopted, and twenty-six young men added their names as members of the society.

In the month of February, 1830, John Harding, of South Woodstock, put forth the first number of the "Domestic Medical and Dietetical Monitor or Journal of Health," a periodical to be issued monthly, each number containing twenty-four duodecimo pages, printed on good paper and in fair type, by David Watson; the price of the work to vary according to the time of payment. It does not appear that this "Monitor" was continued beyond a few months.

There being considerable dissatisfaction felt throughout the community at this time over the recent change of politics in the "Observer," partly for this reason, partly for others, it was determined to start a new newspaper here. To assist in carrying out this purpose, several persons united to raise the sum of five hundred dollars, and advanced that amount toward the establishment of the paper. Their names were William Jarvis, Alexander Hutchinson, John A. Pratt, B. F. Kendall, Isaac N. Cushman, Edwin Hutchinson, Andrew Tracy, Eli Dunham, Edmund S. Hayden, Isaac Churchill, Benjamin F. Mower, and A. Barron. The newspaper was to be styled "The Henry Clay," to be devoted to the advocacy of the American system, so called, and the claims of Henry Clay to the presidency, and to be conducted by Benjamin F. Kendall. The choice of editor was the best that could have been made.

The first number of "The Henry Clay" was issued the 3d day of September, 1830. It will not be out of place to give a brief sketch of the condition of things in this community about

the time "The Henry Clay" was started. The population of the town then numbered a little over three thousand, of which number one thousand were collected in this village. There were five weekly newspapers published here, namely: "The Woodstock Observer," "The Christian Repository," "The American Whig," the "Working-Man's Gazette," and "The Henry Clay." The clinical school was now fairly established, and was beginning to draw a considerable number of students for medical instruction. There were a large number of societies in active, organized life, devoted to moral, social, political, and literary purposes and ends. Among these may be named a temperance society, of which Titus Hutchinson was president and Elder Jasper Hazen vice-president, with an executive committee of five leading citizens. It was about this time that by general consent the retailing of spirituous liquors was dropped by most of the traders in this town. There was the "Woodstock Debating Society," which met weekly in the village for business and discussion. The meetings were held in the upper room of the brick schoolhouse on the Common. Thursday evening, March 1, 1829, the question before the society was this: "Is masonry under the present state of things more injurious to the community than anti-masonry?" Knight Whitmore presided, and the chief disputants were Titus Hutchinson, Jr., affirmative, and Thomas E. Powers, negative. The discussion lasted two or three nights before crowded houses.¹

Still another Woodstock Debating Society existed in School District No. 3, the members of which sometimes enlivened a winter evening by animated discussion of themes like the following: "Is the married more happy than the single life?" In the south part was the "Literary Fraternity," Willard Bowman, Secretary, a society that played an active part for a season, and then passed away. In January, 1830, the citizens of the town met at the court-house, pursuant to a call for that purpose, and formed into an association called the "Woodstock Lyceum," with the Hon. Charles Marsh, President, Joseph Churchill, Vice-President, and a body of curators. This association continued in operation one year, when, with a view to making it more efficient, a large number of citizens met at the court-house on the 19th day of January, 1831, and organized into an association, to take the place of the Lyceum, under the name of the "Wood-

¹ Dr. Powers.

stock Institute," a constitution was adopted and officers were chosen.¹ The institute was to meet once a week ; its exercises were to consist of forensic discussions, lectures upon literary, scientific, mechanical, and agricultural subjects ; and reports from committees to be appointed in the various departments of science and art. All this goes to show the earnest wish of our people at this time to improve themselves, and some of the efforts they made to attain this desirable end. One act of this association still remains in force to perpetuate its memory. At a meeting of the institute held in the month of April, 1831, the expediency of naming the streets in this village was suggested, and a committee was appointed to consult with the several sections of the village upon the subject. The plan was approved and a report made to the institute, proposing names to the several streets, which was adopted, the names proposed being the ones which have remained in use to the present time.²

As far back as the year 1804, if not earlier, the mechanics and artisans of this town had come to regard themselves as an aggrieved class, and had organized and passed resolutions looking to a remedy of the evils under which they suffered. About the time of which we are now speaking, the "working men" of the town made an effort to form a society of their own, with a view to doing something, if possible, to secure just and wholesome reform of alleged evils. The first impulse toward the formation of such a society was given by an anonymous notice in the papers calling a meeting of the "working men" for the 3d of July, 1830. At the meeting held pursuant to this notice a committee of eleven was chosen, to consider the subject of existing grievances and make a report thereon at a future meeting ; after which, having voted some instructions to the said committee, the meeting adjourned to "the 17th instant at 4 o'clock P. M. at the Court House." At this adjourned meeting the committee of eleven made a lengthy report, and a standing committee was appointed, consisting of the following named persons : John Bement, Thomas McLaughlin, Billy Brown, Ebenezer King, Bela Simmons, Tracy Bingham, Nathan T. Churchill, B. F. Kendall, Jasper Hazen, Daniel Taft, Asa Jones, and James Slayton. From the general good spirit and harmony of views exhibited at

¹ See *Henry Clay*, January 28, for copy of constitution.

² See *Henry Clay*, May 13, 1831.

this meeting, there was every reason to hope and expect that this movement on the part of the "working men" would not prove vain, but the result seemed otherwise. When at some time during the following month of August a third meeting was held, from want of organization and united action, and from various local and party causes, the whole concern tumbled to pieces and fell through. After this general decomposition of the party, a few individuals, numbering about seventeen, came into an organization by adopting a constitution and subscribing their names. In a few days the "Working-Man's Gazette" was projected, and soon after made its appearance.¹

But perhaps the most remarkable among the societies of the day was one organized in District No. 3 (Fair Ground), "for the Suppression of Slander and Profane Swearing." It met monthly, "to impart and diffuse moral and friendly instructions." Any person fourteen years of age might become a member by subscribing to the constitution. Its officers consisted at this time of Hon. H. C. Denison, President; Hon. Daniel Dana, Vice-President; Nathan Cushing, Chas. R. Gould, H. C. Paddock, Committee of Vigilance; H. N. Thomas, Secretary. It was the duty of the committee of vigilance to carry into execution the benevolent designs of the society, for which purpose they were clothed with special power to "exhort and admonish" delinquent members of this association.

The foregoing are some of the societies that existed in this neighborhood in the year 1830. Furthermore it may be mentioned that the town was favored with thirteen resident physicians, ten attorneys-at-law, eight clergymen, nine printers, beside merchants, shoemakers, blacksmiths, etc., in large numbers.

"The Henry Clay" newspaper continued one year, and proved to be a very well conducted paper, but at the end of the year it was found that the concern did not pay. The average number of papers published weekly had been six hundred; the cost of running the concern \$1,236.47; the entire loss on the paper within the year \$351.85. But in the face of these discouragements, Kendall determined to go on with the paper another year "on his own hook." He succeeded in buying off the proprietors for \$150, and uniting the "Working-Man's Gazette" with "The Henry Clay," he issued the first number of the new enterprise

¹ See *The Henry Clay*, December 25, 1830.

the 2d day of September, 1831, with the title of "Vermont Courier and Farmer's and Mechanic's Advocate," William W. Prescott, printer. With the second number the title was further lengthened by inserting the word "Manufacturer's."¹

Under Kendall's management the "Vermont Courier" proved to be one of the best conducted papers ever published in this State. This was the period, too, of the great anti-Masonic movement throughout the country. During all this turbulent period Kendall played a conspicuous part in local and State politics, exhibiting remarkable capacities as editor and manager of a newspaper. In 1834 he purchased of Simeon Ide the newspaper published at Windsor, called the "Vermont Republican," and in December of that year uniting it with the "Courier," under the title of "Vermont Republican & Courier," to which was attached the subordinate title, "Windsor & Orange County Advertiser,"² continued to edit and conduct the same till 1836, when he sold out to J. B. & S. L. Chase & Co., under whose management the paper kept up a sickly existence till 1838, when it was discontinued.

Under the title of "The Working Men," a political party originated in Philadelphia some time in the year 1829. The party spread through different parts of New York and Ohio, and through some of the New England States. In the city of New York it seemed divided into opposing factions, one consisting mainly of the disciples and followers of Fanny Wright and Mr. Owen; the other disallowing all connection with the former, and aiming wholly at a just reform of alleged evils.

In 1830 the Working Men's party had attained considerable strength in this State, and especially in this vicinity. It was sufficiently numerous to justify an attempt at becoming an organized body. So a Working-Man's society was formed in this

¹ The office of the *Courier* was in the new brick building (up stairs), southwest and opposite to R. Barker's hotel, and directly over N. Fisher, Jr., & Co.'s clothing store. Some of the warmest friends of *The Henry Clay* objected to that appellation as carrying the appearance of *man-worship*. But Mr. Kendall declared that this consideration had nothing to do with selection of such a title for the paper. That title was selected as betokening that

the paper would advocate those measures of public policy with which Mr. Clay was so completely identified. Its novelty also was a further inducement for such a choice of title.

² We now issue 1270 papers per week, which are distributed extensively in this county and those adjoining, and in all others in the State, more or less, as well as most of the States in the Union. (*Republican & Courier*, April 10, 1835.)

village, as has been shown already,¹ and about the same time an organ for the party was projected and issued, under the title of the "Working-Man's Gazette." The first number appeared the 23d day of September, 1830, in quarto form, printed in handsome style, and conducted by "Nahum Haskell and William W. Prescott, Editors and Proprietors. Terms, ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS in advance." The editors, in their salutatory, claimed that there was a demand for such a paper to speak for the working-man. As the papers now published in this vicinity were all liable to the charge of cringing to "a cold-hearted aristocracy," they averred that the present course of the political journals was therefore "highly derogatory to the best interests of the laboring man," with other words of similar import. Indeed, the "Working-Man's Gazette" was sufficiently advanced in its principles for the most radical thinkers of the present day. The following are the great measures named in its platform, to be advocated until their adoption was secured, namely: "Equal universal education; abolition of imprisonment for debt; abolition of all licensed monopolists; an entire revision or abolition of the present militia system; a less expensive law system; equal taxation on property; an effectual lien law for laborers; the election of all officers by the people; and no legislation on religion."

After continuing about a year, the "Working-Man's Gazette" was united with "The Henry Clay,"¹ under the title of the "Vermont Courier," etc.

In the month of June, 1836, pursuant to a call of the Anti-Masonic committee, composed of Allen Wardner, Amos Ralph, and Gardner Winslow, a meeting was held at the court-house in this town, at which the names of four citizens were placed upon a ticket to be supported as senators for Windsor County. After the convention was over, it being whispered abroad that the candidates were improper ones, some of the restless spirits in this vicinity made a move to break the ticket. In the interest of these disaffected persons, a campaign paper was started in this village some time in August, to be continued till after election.

¹ See page 258.

² The *Working-Man's Gazette* is defunct, or, in other words, it has joined itself to the infamous *Henry Clay*. (*Amer-*

ican Whig, Sept. 3, 1831.) The last number of the *Gazette* was issued Aug 23, 1831.

It was called the "Constitution," and was mainly edited by Henry S. Hutchinson.

On the 23d day of the same August appeared the first number of the "Hornet," printed and edited by Timothy Tickle & Co. In their address to the public the company announced that "the leading object of the 'HORNET' will be to blow that *musty* concern (the 'Constitution') and the wretched political *cobblers* and *tinkers* who are at the bottom of it, 'sky-high.'" Thomas E. Powers and B. F. Kendall did the editorial work of the "Hornet," specimen numbers of which are still in existence.¹

Some time in the spring of 1837 Mr. Norman Williams and one or two other citizens met in the post-office, then in the old Union Hall building, to consider the expediency of starting a new paper in this village. As the result of their deliberation, the prospectus of the "Vermont Mercury" was drawn up and sent to Lewis Pratt, then living in Windsor, in the employ of Gilbert A. Grant, and by him printed on a Democratic press. The first number of the "Vermont Mercury" appeared April 6, 1837, published by Haskell & Palmer, Nahum Haskell, editor. Mr. Haskell was a man of great industry, but his attention was mainly given to his regular business of book-binding and book-selling, and he never did much editorial work for the "Mercury." This fell chiefly upon others. During the Harrison campaign, 1840, it was well understood that the editorial staff of the "Mercury" embraced a variety of contributors;² but however this might be, the "Mercury" enjoyed quite a long and prosperous career. It started with the Whig party in this State, and adhered to the fortunes of that party during the entire term of its existence in this country. After it ceased to exist, in 1852, as one of the great political forces of the country, those who had the management of the concern concluded it was time for the "Mercury," also, to wind up. Accordingly, March 1, 1855, the editor announced to the public that he had transferred his interest in the publication of the "Mercury" to the "Vermont Jour-

¹ These two rival papers excelled in lively personalities and vigor of declamation. This community may well hope that any occasion for the reappearance of such campaign papers may never occur in the future.

² Eastman, in the columns of the *Spirit*

of the *Age*, speaks, on one occasion, of the *Mercury* as edited by a committee of a whole village of lawyers; at another time, as a sheet edited by an association of gentlemen. (See the *Age* for Sept. 18, 1840.)

nal." "The paper will be printed for the present at Windsor, under the title of the 'VERMONT JOURNAL,' and published at Windsor and Woodstock." The last number of the "Mercury" was issued March 8 next following.

In the summer of 1842, pending the State election, a campaign paper was issued upon the suggestion and under the supervision of Consul Jarvis and others, called "The Whig Advocate." By arrangement it was edited by Charles P. Marsh, then a law-student in the office of Chandler & Billings in this village. The political excitement during this campaign ran high, and the paper at once found great favor everywhere. Its circulation reached between five and six thousand, which may be taken as good evidence of the care and ability with which it was conducted by the editor. There were twelve numbers of the paper issued in all.

Early in the year 1840, when the note was sounded in both Whig and Democratic camps to prepare for the presidential campaign of that year, it was resolved by some of the faithful to start a Democratic paper in Woodstock. Ten years previous similar plans had been made, and proposals issued for publishing in this village a Jackson paper, to be called "The Horn of the Green Mountains," and to be edited by E. C. Purdy, previously the editor of the "Rutland Herald." But just then the "Woodstock Observer," hitherto an Adams paper, suddenly changed front and wheeled into the Democratic ranks, upon which Mr. Purdy retired with the "Horn" to Manchester. About three years after this change the "Observer" fell through, and, as the Anti-Masons were now the prevailing party in the State, all thought of establishing a Democratic paper in Woodstock was laid aside for the present. But at length the time seemed opportune for carrying into effect this long meditated plan. Under the cry of "Smilie and Bank Reform" the Democrats at the State election in 1839 had made fearful ravages in the Whig ranks, and it seemed as though there needed but one more vigorous effort on the part of the Democracy to carry the State. One of the surest steps to gain this end, good Democrats said, was to go for the Gibraltar of Whiggery.

On the 31st of March, 1840, C. G. Eastman, Gilbert A. Grant, Titus Hutchinson, Jr., and E. L. Sabin, bought of Lyman Mower the store-building standing on the north side of the Common,

between the brick schoolhouse and Russell Streeter's, and converted it into a printing-office. Eastman was to be the editor of the new paper. He had proved his fitness for the place by the way he had conducted for the last two years the "Vermont State Paper," printed in Johnson. Especially his zeal as a partisan, and the keenness of his pen, no one could doubt who had read "The Scorpion," a campaign sheet issued by him in the summer of 1839, and famous at the time for the relentless manner in which it pursued the Whigs. With an ambitious mind thus fortified by considerable experience, and with the Democratic blood in his veins braced to the highest pitch by long breathing the atmosphere of "Spunky Lamoille," Eastman was prepared to enter upon a broader field of labors as the manager of the Democratic organ of Windsor County. He was the best man in the State the party could furnish for that position. Yet with all his qualifications for the place, there was one serious drawback to full measure of success. He expected, indeed, to get a living by his paper, and to conduct that with care and skill he made his primary object. But while the management of the paper as a matter of business was the first thought with him, the man's heart was elsewhere. The truth is, Eastman hated politics. Necessity might compel him to assist in directing the machinery of party tactics, to attend the caucus, the primary meetings, and the conventions of the day, to wade through the trash of partisan writers, and if he desired to lampoon his adversaries, even files of old newspapers were eagerly studied for material to that end. But from such barren wastes he made all possible speed to get away, that he might betake himself to the more congenial walks of literature. No one could have any doubts as to his true character and tastes in this respect, who observed him carefully during the first year of his stay in Woodstock. His Byron collar and trim aspect, his pleasant smile or hearty laugh, as the occasion happened to call forth, his ready response, if you passed him a joke or quoted a line from Coleridge, — traits like these indicated a genial spirit in the man, a culture of mind and a nobility of soul, strangely at variance with the fierce and cruel nature of many of his political efforts.

On the 8th day of May, 1840, after long and painful delays, not unattended with mocks and jeering inquiries from a watchful enemy, appeared the first number of the "Spirit of the Age."



Of this first number the chief characteristic was a carefully written salutatory, covering the whole of one page, and closing with the declaration that the editor would not be wanting on his part "to carry out what is emphatically the spirit of the age—**FREEDOM OF INQUIRY AND THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE.**"

The editor did, indeed, prove himself not wanting in skillful and vigorous efforts to produce a lively Democratic organ, and his friends called the "Age" the best paper in the State. But so far as concerned making gains to the Democracy from the ranks of his opponents, Eastman had fallen on evil times. The tide of Whig victory had set in, and it was not to be turned back by ridiculing "Hard Cider and Log Cabins," or by pouring out the vials of editorial wrath at sight of the general delusion. But he did his duty manfully through the campaign, and when the returns for the September election in this State began to come in, making clear that overwhelming defeat had fallen on his own party, he yielded to the general surprise, and showed his wisdom as well as good nature in joining heartily in the cheers and laughter raised by the Whigs over their great success. For his remark was, the Whigs were having it all their own way this year, and he might as well hurrah with them as be cross about it. Another year he might depend on large Democratic gains.

At the commencement of the fourth volume of the "Age," in May, 1843, the paper was enlarged and improved, and now was regarded by many people as the cheapest and best paper in the State. About the same time Eastman was appointed postmaster, and then removed the "Age" office from the building on the north side of the Common to rooms over B. W. Rice's store on Elm Street. He remained editor of the "Age" till December, 1845, and then went to Montpelier to take charge of the "Vermont Patriot." He was succeeded by E. A. Kimball, who came from Concord, N. H., and already for some time had been Eastman's chief hand in the printing department of his paper. Kimball laid no claims to liberal education or special literary taste, but he was a quick, stirring young man, a ready speaker, as he showed in the debating club, social and friendly in his disposition, and brave as a lion. His success as editor of the "Age" was far greater than people expected, but his discipline in this line did not continue long, for in 1847 he was appointed a cap-

tain in the regiment raised in Vermont for the Mexican War, and in May of that year gave up the charge of his paper to E. M. Brown. As they remarked on the street, Brown was a wonderful hand at the quill. While at the Norwich University, and while teacher of a select school in Barnard, he had breathed good Democratic atmosphere, so that in his political principles he must needs be sound and staunch. Likewise, previous to taking the "Age," he had edited a paper in Alstead, N. H., for two years, called the "American Citizen and Militia Advocate." Any one wishing to form an estimate of Brown's facility in the use of the pen may read an editorial that appeared in the "Age" about thirty-one years ago, historical, descriptive, and satirical, written chiefly to explain the facts connected with the sudden demise of a paper which existed a short time in this village, under the title of the "Northern Farmer." Mr. Brown remained editor of the "Age" nearly thirteen years. January 1, 1860, the paper passed into the hands of its present proprietor, William D. McMaster.

The last number of the "Vermont Mercury" contained, among other matters, the prospectus of the "Northern Farmer," a weekly newspaper adapted to the climate and soil of Vermont and New Hampshire, and devoted to agriculture, literature, and general intelligence, published every Friday morning, by Brown & Crosby, Elm Street. A business office was also established at Hanover, N. H. The editorial department was under the immediate direction of A. B. Crosby, son of Dr. Dixie Crosby. The first number appeared the 6th day of April, 1855, with illustrations. Till the close of the following October the "Northern Farmer" was issued from the office of the "Spirit of the Age." So far, the paper had gone on with reasonable good luck, and the indications were that the experiment would prove successful, and the "Farmer" become one of the *fixed facts* among the newspapers of Vermont. After the above date the paper was printed at a separate office, and the business of publishing was continued by Mr. Crosby alone. He retained the editorial conduct of the "Farmer" till about the middle of May, 1856, when he gave it up, and the concern was disposed of to W. Scott Abbott. The last days of the "Farmer" in this place were lengthened out by drafts on both the "Age" and "Standard" offices for matter of

type and paper. It was at length removed to West Randolph, where it died in a few months.¹

On the 5th day of August, 1845, appeared the prospectus of the "Vermont Temperance Herald." This prospectus goes on to recite that, at the solicitation of many of the friends of temperance, Mr. M. P. Parish proposes to issue at Woodstock, Vt., a newspaper with the above title. The "Herald" was to be printed on good paper, and to be the organ of the Vermont Temperance Society. The promotion of the cause of temperance was to be its leading object, yet to present a sheet suited to the wants of the family would be the constant aim of the editor. "To be published weekly, at one dollar a year."

The first number of the "Herald" was issued Wednesday, November 19, 1845. The printing-office was on Court Street, "two doors west of the court-house." Six hundred of the friends of temperance in Windsor County united their subscriptions to establish the paper, and about five hundred dollars additional to the subscriptions were pledged as a guaranty for the ample support of the enterprise. The "Herald" was handsomely printed, and was conducted with a fair share of ability by the editor. In its temperance principles it was teetotal in every respect. At the end of twelve weeks its subscription list had reached nine hundred and forty-one in Windsor County, and the paper received a very liberal patronage for some time. In the long run, however, the "Herald" did not prove a financial success, and during the fourth year of its existence it was discontinued.

April 29, 1853, the first number of the "Vermont Temperance Standard" was issued; Thomas E. Powers, editor; Lewis Pratt, Jr., publisher. The printing-office was in the Tracy Block, so called. This paper had great success at the outset, and at the end of the first year its circulation had reached three thousand. Dr. Powers continued editor till December 29, 1854, when Rev. Guy C. Sampson assumed the management of the paper, retaining it till January, 1857. At that time Wilber P. Davis and Luther O. Greene, both from the office of the "St. Albans Messenger," bought the paper, and became editors

¹ For some interesting remarks on the material furnished in the shape of press and type, went up to Randolph, taking McMaster with him, and having gathered up the remains, brought them home.

and publishers, changing the title to the "Vermont Standard." July 27, 1860, Davis sold out his interest to Mr. Greene, since which time the latter has remained sole editor and proprietor.

The "Standard" has always been Republican in politics since the organization of the Republican party. Under its present management it has been conducted at all times with care and ability, and in its discussions of public matters has been marked by a fair and honorable spirit towards all parties.

The first number of the "Otta-Quechee Post" appeared Friday, September 15, 1871. "Price, \$1.00 per year in advance. Robert A. Perkins, editor and publisher." The paper was printed on the coöperative system, the editor adopting this plan because he believed in it. He was, furthermore, of the opinion that the most enterprising man is the one who gives the best paper for the price, whether he walks in the footsteps of the fathers or strikes out some new course for himself. The editor also announced that his paper was published, like good old "Beckwith's Almanac," "to do good and make money." The "Post" was independent Republican in politics, and supported Horace Greeley in the Presidential campaign of 1872. In August of this same year its name was changed to "Woodstock Post." It was a handsomely printed sheet, a lively paper, rather pungent sometimes, and in its whole career was conducted with decided ability; but it did not prove a financial success, and on the 4th day of June, 1875, was discontinued.

"The last of the list of Woodstock newspapers is 'The Acorn,' the first number of which was issued May 1, 1872. This was an amateur paper, entirely edited and printed by boys of about sixteen years, was published monthly, had four three-column pages, each form being four and a half by six inches; subscription price twenty-five cents per year. John C. Dana, William N. Campbell, Harold S. Dana, and Edward G. Bailey conducted it the first year, after which the two first named continued it alone. The 'Acorn' had a prosperous existence for seventeen months, when its publication was abandoned, the last issue being the number for October, 1873. The 'Acorn' was made up on the plan of larger papers, with its advertisements and several departments, was neatly printed in nonpareil type, and was remarkably well edited; in fact, it was by all odds the brightest

and best among several papers of its class then published in Vermont." ¹

To the foregoing sketch of newspapers may be properly added a brief notice of two or three of the printers and editors who have formerly lived in this village.

DAVID WATSON.

The parents of David Watson resided in Boston, Mass. While they were on a visit to Kennebunk, Me., in the month of November, 1788, David was born. He received his education in the Boston public schools, and was one of the Franklin medal scholars in the year 1801, at the North School, now known as the Eliot School. Some of his associates in this school were Samuel Draper, John W. Rich, and Samuel Butler. In 1802 he was apprenticed to the printing business in Boston, in the office of Thomas & Andrews, where he served an apprenticeship of seven years. One of his labors during that term of service was to put in type and assist in printing the complete works of Shakespeare, a labor which proved of lasting benefit to the young man. Among the journeymen employed in the office at the same time were Joseph T. Buckingham and Samuel T. Armstrong, both of them in after time men of considerable note. In 1813 Watson, in company with a young man by the name of Bangs, set up in the job-printing business on the corner of State and Devonshire streets, under the firm name of Watson & Bangs. This enterprise did not prove very successful, and in a short time was given up. Watson next moved to Hanover, N. H., and there started anew in the printing business. About this time John Mackenzie, John Rand, Benjamin Putnam, Christopher W. Martin, and Jasper Hazen had been selected as a committee to compile a Christian Hymn-Book for the Christian Church and Society in Woodstock, and for general use in the denomination. After having finished the work of compiling the hymn-book, the next step was to get it published. They decided to have this done in Woodstock, if they could secure a printer. Casting about for the proper person, they agreed at last with David Watson to come to Woodstock and print the book. This was in the spring of 1818. Mr. Watson set up his printing-press in Bezer Simmons's new house, on what is now Pleasant Street, the same

¹ Robert A. Perkins, in *Spirit of the Age*, Feb. 7, 1880.

building, with changes and improvements, now [1886] owned and occupied by Robert S. Southgate. He contracted with Abijah Burbank,¹ paper-maker of Sharon, for a quantity of good paper to be used in printing the said book. When the paper came, it did not appear to Watson such as he had engaged, or fit to be used for the work in hand, and he refused to take it. Thereupon the paper-maker proceeded to take legal steps against Mr. Watson, and a lawsuit seemed to be the order of the day. The County Court ruled out the cause to three good men,² and when the day of trial came, the paper-maker produced two printers and a fellow-worker in paper, who swore that the commodity in question was "*an excellent lot of paper.*" "Whereupon the referees, who were obliged to make up their judgment from the testimony before them, awarded against the printer, and the quality of the paper was established to be good."³

Mr. Watson was now fairly established as a printer in Woodstock. A scheme was set on foot in the fall of 1819 to start a newspaper in this village. The plan was carried out, and Watson was selected to print and vend the same, as has been related elsewhere. Besides the "Observer," he printed other periodicals, in the shape of quarterlies, bi-monthlies, etc., as the case might be. He was the publisher, also, of various books of all sizes and kinds, and, as a rule, his work was of excellent quality. The paper and printing were good, and whatever he put his hand to was honestly done. During his stay in Woodstock we find him engaged, also, to some extent, in other branches of industry; but printing and publishing books, periodicals, and pamphlets constituted his principal work. Among the many books he printed here may be noticed in particular a Greek lexicon of the New Testament, compiled by Samuel C. Loveland, and published in 1828, Watson setting up all the type himself. Perhaps the first book he sent forth from the press in this town was a small affair containing sixty-six pages, the size of the printed page being two and a quarter by four and a quarter inches; printed, very

¹ Burbank erected his paper-mill in Sharon, and started it about September, 1801. See his advertisement, *Windsor Gazette*, Sept. 8, 1801.

² Jesse Williams, Benjamin Swan, and Samuel Daman.

³ See *Woodstock Observer*, April 4, 1820, for some amusing comments on the

quality of the paper in dispute. Also *County Court Records* for Windsor County, vol. xii. p. 358. Burbank's paper, which Watson was thus compelled to take, he declined to use in printing the hymn-book, procuring other and better for this purpose. The hymn-book was not published till 1819.

likely, on some of Burbank's "excellent" paper; but the work, for all that, being well done. The covers are of thick paper, and the book is embellished with six unique wood-cuts, five of which are on the covers, together with the title to the book: "THE HISTORY OF LITTLE HENRY AND HIS BEARER. *Woodstock: Printed by David Watson. 1818.*" He also established a stereotype foundry on the 26th of September, 1829, this being the first effort of the kind in Woodstock.

In January, 1832, Mr. Watson went to Boston, leaving his family here, and he never visited Woodstock afterwards. In October, 1833, he settled in Lancaster, Mass., where he remained but a short time, removing to New York about the month of May, 1834. Here he set up in the printing business, but was not successful, and returned to Boston in January, 1836. In this city he found employment as proof-reader in the Boston Stereotype Foundry, a branch of business in which he was an expert, being an accurate proof-reader of Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. In the Hebrew, indeed, he was so accurate, that after his removal to Concord, N. H., he was employed by Perkins & Marvin, of Boston, to read the sheets of a Hebrew work which they published.

Near the close of the year 1839 Mr. Watson moved from Boston to Concord, N. H., where he settled with his family. In this city he was employed for several years in various offices, and as proof-reader in the mean time for several works printed in Boston, and in 1854 he was elected city clerk, which office he held nine years. He died in Concord in March, 1867, universally respected.

Mr. Watson was married in this village January 13, 1820, to Mary Wilder, daughter of Captain Jacob Wilder, by whom he had nine children.

BENJAMIN F. KENDALL.

Benjamin F. Kendall was the son of Abraham Kendall of this town, and was born in South Woodstock the 4th day of October, 1799. While he was yet a young man, he went to Richmond, Va., and served his apprenticeship in the office of the "Richmond Enquirer," then under the charge of Thomas Ritchie. After a season thus spent in Richmond, he returned to Woodstock, and in October, 1825, went into partnership with Eliphalet

Dunham in the dry-goods business, under the firm name of Dunham & Kendall. With some intermission he continued in trade till the summer of 1830, when he closed his business as trader, and from that time devoted his whole attention to editing and conducting a newspaper. He was well qualified for this sort of work. His mind was clear and ready; his pen kept pace with his thoughts; his style was usually dignified, his temper cool, and when the occasion called for such displays, he could be sufficiently keen and sarcastic in his remarks to satisfy the appetite of any one. Some have gone so far as to assert of Mr. Kendall that he was the best editor of a newspaper Vermont has ever produced.

After about six years of editorial service in this town, Mr. Kendall closed his career as conductor of a newspaper, and again went to Richmond, where he began the study of the law. In Richmond he made the acquaintance of a Mr. Mayhew, who was the owner of an extensive tract of land in the State of Indiana. Entering into business relations with this gentleman, Mr. Kendall obtained from him a large section of the above-named tract of land, situated near Logansport, upon which he settled and went to farming. Here in the midst of the most encouraging prospects he was prostrated with fever, from which he never recovered, dying the 7th day of March, 1854.

ISAIAH H. CARPENTER.

The subject of this sketch, Isaiah H. Carpenter, was the son of Rufus and Olive Carpenter, and was born in Woodstock, the 11th day of April, 1783, according to the town records. When about seventeen years old he went to Windsor, to learn the printer's trade, in the office of Alden Spooner, editor and proprietor of the "Vermont Journal," with whom he served his apprenticeship at the trade. He was afterwards established in Barnard for a while, where he set up a printing-press, and printed and vended several books and pamphlets, among the number a *Life of General George Washington*. About the 1st of July, 1804, he was married, in Windsor, by the Hon. William Hunter, to Miss Elizabeth Welch. After he relinquished the publication of the "Northern Memento," in the spring of 1805, he went to the cultivation of his farm, which he inherited from his father. The 17th day of January, 1820, he took the tavern stand in

Woodstock Green, formerly kept by John Pratt, in later years known as the Eagle Hotel, which he conducted for two years, and then gave it up.

In consequence of liabilities contracted for friends whom he endeavored to relieve from pecuniary difficulties, Mr. Carpenter became embarrassed and lost his property, but not his good character. He was always an honest man, and for many years after being reduced in circumstances rendered more gratuitous aid to the sick and suffering than any other person in the community. He died in this town on the 2d day of January, 1867.

NOTE. — After Rufus Colton left Woodstock he went to Canada, where he remained some time. In the spring of 1836 there appeared in the "Windsor Statesman," over the signature of "Old Lang Syne," several articles in which were sketched in somewhat racy style the political events of a recent date that had occurred in Woodstock and vicinity. The writer of these articles, some four or five in all, had much to say about the "Observer" and its able runaway editor, "Major Colton." Some of his comments were as follows: "I have always regretted the fate of the 'Observer,' to say nothing of the misery and wretchedness brought upon the editor and his family. He certainly struggled hard, and was a bold and fearless advocate for Democratic principles." Upon this communication there appeared in the "Republican and Courier," June 23, 1836, some severe strictures by the editor, who charged these articles on Colton himself. This drew out a reply from Colton, dated Detroit, Mich., July 4th, who denied that he was the author of the aforesaid articles, moralized a little over his misfortunes, and expressed his hope of being able to meet his debts in time. The letter is given in full in the "Republican and Courier" for July 21st. The editor, however, adds, in answer, that he does not believe a word of the denial, "because a person of quite as undoubted veracity as the major told us that he saw and examined, as it was lawful for him to do, the manuscript of one of the said essays. It had a note appended marked 'R. C.,' and the document was post-marked 'St. Thomas, Upper Canada.'"

About five years after this, while Joel Eaton was postmaster in Woodstock, he wrote to the postmaster of some town in the West, inquiring if Rufus Colton lived in that town. Mr. Eaton had the impression the name of the town was Coltonsville, in the State of Ohio. Colton was still owing him for the use of a pair of white horses to draw the cannon to Montpelier, when the artillery visited the capital in 1831. To this letter of inquiry Mr. Eaton in due time received an answer. The writer went on to state that Rufus Colton did live in that town, and he was

well acquainted with him. Mr. Colton was getting on quite prosperously, was a person of considerable note, had filled various offices in the gift of the community, some of them quite important; in fact was the postmaster in that town, "and the writer of this letter, and I am yours very truly, Rufus Colton."

ADDITIONAL NOTE. From a letter written by Warren Weeden of Sycamore, Ill., dated Oct. 14, 1888, the following facts concerning Rufus Colton have been ascertained.

Colton, in his move westward, seems to have stopped at Joliet, Ill., where he remained a short time. Thence he proceeded, in 1837, into DeKalb County on a prospecting tour, and being pleased with the country, he bought two tracts of land, or claims, as they were called, lying side by side, each eighty rods wide, as they butted on the Kishwaukee River, and to extend westward over the prairie as far as he had a mind. His possessions were pleasantly located between the present towns of DeKalb and Sycamore, about two miles from the latter place. Other settlers soon followed, and a village sprung up of moderate size, which was named Coltonville. In 1839 Colton erected a two-story tavern, and opened it with a grand ball in the autumn of that year, gathering his company from a circuit of thirty miles around. Into this his brother Calvin moved, and they opened a store, blacksmith shop, etc. The Colton brothers had hopes of making Coltonville the county seat, and one or two sessions of the court were held there, at which Rufus served as County Clerk. But when at last, after a sharp contest, the county seat was located at Sycamore and a court-house built there, Coltonville declined as rapidly as it grew up, and after some years all the buildings were taken away except the large hotel, which is still standing. Rufus moved his house back on the prairie a hundred rods, and lived there till his death, from consumption, in 1850, at the age of 47 years, 6 months. He is buried in Ohio Grove Cemetery. He left eight children, named as follows: Adolphus, Abigail, Lyman, Josephine, Arunah, Caroline, Gertrude, and Betsy, most of whom were married and are scattered over the Western States.

CHAPTER XV.

MILITARY COMPANIES.

UNDER the act for regulating the militia of this State, passed March 10, 1797, and kept in force for many years without much change, it was enacted, —

“That the governor, by and with the advice of the council, shall arrange the whole of the militia into divisions and brigades.

“And the several major-generals, by and with the advice of the commanding officers of brigades, in their respective divisions, shall from time to time arrange the brigades into regiments and battalions.

“And the field officers of regiments are empowered to arrange their regiments respectively into companies, and to make such alterations as from time to time shall be found necessary.

“And if the same be convenient, each brigade shall consist of four regiments ; each regiment of ten companies ; and each company of sixty-four effective privates.”

Until 1830 the regiment to which the companies in this town were attached belonged to the 4th division of the militia ; after that to the 1st division.

In November, 1832, a law was passed that 2d lieutenants should be chosen instead of ensigns in the several companies of infantry and riflemen, and a 3d lieutenant instead of ensign in companies of artillery.

In 1832 the 3d regiment of the 3d brigade and 1st division of Vermont militia embraced three uniform companies, all in splendid order, namely, the Woodstock Artillery, commanded by Hosea Vaughan, Jr. ; the Woodstock Light Infantry, commanded by Amos McLaughlin, and the Pomfret Rifle Company, commanded by Stephen Bugbee. In addition to these uniform companies there were nine companies of infantry, namely, two from Woodstock, two from Reading, two from Plymouth, two from Bridgewater, and one from Pomfret. A sketch of the several companies existing in Woodstock at that time, including also a sketch of the “Troop,” is here appended.

FIRST LIGHT INFANTRY, THIRD REGIMENT, FIRST BRIGADE,
FOURTH DIVISION OF THE MILITIA OF VERMONT.

The records, rolls, and memoranda concerning and belonging to this company were all sold for paper-rags during the late civil war. A few facts have been collected relating to the company, but these are stated with some diffidence.

The first captain of the company was Ephraim Eddy, who lived at the Flats and died there in 1799. His epitaph reads as follows: —

“Sacred to the memory of Captain Ephraim Eddy first Captain of the first company of Light Infantry in Woodstock, who died September 3, 1799, in the 39th year of his age. The funeral solemnity was attended by a military procession,” etc.

It was the custom in the early records of the town to write the military title, if he had one, to every man's name, whenever his name was entered in the record. Eddy is first styled captain in the records of a town-meeting held September 6, 1791, but is not so styled in the record of the March meeting for the same year. The first company of light-infantry may have been organized about this time.

Not long after Ephraim Eddy ceased to be captain, Levi Churchill was elected to the place, and after him George B. Lake. In 1805–6 Seth Wood was the captain, and William Wood, 2d, the lieutenant, whose commission is dated the 13th day of February, 1806. Noah Wood was at the same time orderly-sergeant, whose commission is dated the 14th of February, 1806, and attested by Seth Wood, Captain.

It is claimed that William Wood succeeded Seth Wood; if so, it must have been about the year 1807, as William Wood, 2d, was elected captain of the company in the fall of that year, and his commission, signed by Israel Smith, Captain-General, etc., is dated the 14th day of October, 1807. Still another captain was Noah Wood, 2d, whose commission bears date the 5th of March, 1812. He served during the period of the war, and was discharged July 2, 1815. While he was the acting captain, the whole company volunteered to go to the war, but this was not accepted, and in lieu of that a draft was ordered, which was held on the east side of Esquire Ellis's tavern in South Woodstock. The following members of the company were drafted, namely,

Elias Randall, A. B. Rice, Noah Crooker, Jr., and David Thomas (?). Colonel Dana's place of rendezvous for the soldiers who were to go to the war was at his house, where the pine-tree stood (and still is standing). This was in 1814. After the draft was made the company all marched to Colonel Dana's with the drafted men, when the time came for the soldiers to start for the seat of war at Burlington.¹

William Wood, 3d, succeeded Noah Wood, 2d, then came Captain Cox, perhaps, followed possibly by Samuel Wood, who was captain of some military company surely; then came Isaac N. Cushman and Richard M. Ransom in order, when the company disbanded.

The first uniform of the company, so far as is known, consisted of red coats with white trimmings, and officers and privates wore white pantaloons. Daniel Lake beat the drum.

LIGHT-INFANTRY.

The second company of light-infantry was organized in the year 1822,² and the first captain chosen was Benjamin F. Mower. Orlando N. Dana was elected at same time 1st lieutenant, Oliver H. McKenzie, 2d lieutenant, and Edmund S. Hayden, sergeant, and there were about forty privates.

The uniform, to begin with, consisted of black coat and pants. The captain had his coat trimmed with a gold epaulet on the right shoulder; the lieutenant and ensign had theirs trimmed with the same on the left shoulder. The hat carried an eagle on the side, and was surmounted with a black cockade. The privates wore a red sash and cartridge-box, marked W. L. I. The knapsack and canteen were blue. The musket they carried was the Springfield gun, so called. Mower remained captain of the company two years. He then withdrew, and Edmund S. Hayden took his place. Under Hayden great changes were made in the uniform of the company. In place of the black coat came a short military coat, swallow-tailed, blue in color, and adorned with six dozen yellow buttons, bullet-shaped. Three rows of

¹ Otis Wood.

² This company must have been organized as soon as 1822, if indeed it was a new company, and not merely the old company reorganized or reanimated. The Fourth of July was celebrated that year

in this village, and the procession which was formed on the occasion was escorted to the meeting-house by the light-infantry company, commanded by Captain Mower.

these were set in front, and the rest distributed over other parts of the coat. A standing collar, and a red epaulet on each shoulder, completed the make-up of the coat. A stiff leather stock was worn round the neck. The cap, made by Simon Warren, was of leather and bell-shaped, and around the front part of it were brass scales, set just above the forepiece, increasing in size as they receded from the front. Above these scales, and over the front, an eagle was placed. The plume was white with black top, and twelve inches or more in height.¹ Around the waist each private wore a band of red webbing, holding the cartridge-box. Certain additional features of dress distinguished the officers. On each arm of the coat the corporal had three, the sergeant four, V's made of gold lace half an inch wide. The captain, lieutenant, and ensign, had also lace running across the front from button to button. Their epaulets remained without material change. Furthermore the officers carried swords sufficiently expensive to suit the most aspiring minds, and metallic scabbards trimmed with a heavy gold tassel; also a heavy silk scarf of red color was thrown round the waist and tied in a large knot, with the ends hanging down to the knees. Officers and privates alike wore white pantaloons and black boots. The musicians were dressed in white from top to toe, having their coats trimmed with red tape.

One of the original musicians of the company was Owen Taft, who began with the fife. At the same time Nahum Haskell played the bugle.² Under Edmund S. Hayden, Haskell went out and Owen Taft took the Kent bugle, an instrument with keys, which superseded the old horse-horn. Ira Angell beat the snare-drum, and Daniel Lake the bass-drum, using an instrument of his own make and of immense proportions.³ The number of musicians varied in the history of the company. At one period, when Paschal P. Taft was captain, there were seventeen of them.

James C. Slayton succeeded Hayden as captain, being elected March 20, 1827. At the same time Daniel Taft, Jr., was elected 1st lieutenant, John D. Powers, orderly-sergeant, and Paschal P.

¹ Harvey Lockwood says twenty-four.

² "Woodstock Light-Infantry

"To Gallup & Hayden Dr.

"1826 Aug 10 To Paid N. Haskell for
Blowing Bugle 10.00"

³ Daniel Lake told me August, 1869,

that the drum he beat in the procession at the time Godfrey was hung was his own make, and the heaviest he ever heard. The very windows of the houses shook as he beat it. That drum is now in Montpelier.

Taft, corporal. Daniel Taft, Jr., succeeded Slayton in 1829 as captain. Hiram Cutting was elected 1st lieutenant, and Paschal P. Taft, ensign. Some changes now took place in the officers of the company in consequence of the promotion of Daniel Taft, Jr., to lieutenant-colonel in the regiment, June 14, 1830, and then January 24, 1832, to colonel. Hiram Cutting, the 1st lieutenant, after serving, as it appears, a short time as captain of the company, went West, and Ensign Paschal P. Taft was made captain in his place, with Amos McLaughlin, lieutenant. Paschal P. Taft was discharged in 1831, and February 11, 1832, Amos McLaughlin was elected captain. After serving a little over a year McLaughlin received his discharge in May, 1833. Then Emery B. Johnson, who had been elected lieutenant May 12, 1832, was promoted to captain May 22, 1833. June 1st of the same year L. G. Chillson was elected lieutenant, and S. C. Caldwell ensign.

From the beginning great rivalry existed between this company and the Woodstock Artillery, and under its influence there was a constant effort on the part of each company to outvie the other. What stimulated this spirit of emulation most of all between these two companies was the fact that in their palmy days they were allowed, by general consent, to be the best disciplined and best appearing uniform companies in the State. June training-day, 1830, the infantry came out with a novel and striking feature added to their array. Four pioneers led off the company. Their uniform consisted of a red cap with black feathers, the cap being made of old-fashioned red broadcloth, such as the ladies wore for cloaks; a heavy, dark-green frock, trimmed with red, and a red sash, with pantaloons to match. Two of the pioneers were armed with broad-axes, and two with long pikes having strong iron hooks at the end. They each carried besides a heavy pistol fastened to the girdle. The first pioneers of native stock were Thomas Marcy, Gilman T. Comings, Alonzo Washburn, and Jonas G. Tribou. When Paschal P. Taft became captain, he further added two scouts armed with rifles, who marched some distance ahead of the rest, and on the appearance of danger discharged their rifles to give the alarm, and retreated to the rear. One year the artillery had made arrangements to add to their regular music on June training-day a pair of cymbals. This they kept a secret from the light-infantry, as they supposed, but the infantry got wind of it, and, not to be behind, Paschal P.

Taft prepared under the hammer a pair of heavy steel cymbals, and Sanger Grow, who worked in Jones's factory, was engaged to play them. On these June training-days there was usually a strife between the two companies to see which should appear first on the parade. On this occasion the infantry did not appear till after the artillery had paraded through the streets, filling the air with the clang of the cymbals as they marched, and thinking themselves masters of the day. But now came the turn of the infantry to try. Filing out of the hall at Cutting's Hotel, they formed in line in the street, and marched down the Common, Grow clashing the cymbals. "You could hear them half a mile."¹ This display completely eclipsed the artillery, and they dropped the cymbals after that.

Under Emery B. Johnson the company became greatly reduced, and when he went West it was difficult to find any one to take his place as captain. Finally Hull B. Witt consented to accept the position.

"When I was [first] elected captain of the Light Infantry, owing to my strong temperance principles I refused to accept the position, as they demanded that liquor should be furnished on training-days. But in the following fall the company was without a captain again and they reëlected me to that position. After the members of the company agreed by vote not to use liquor on general training-days I accepted the position and commanded the company for two years, when I was relieved from further duty owing to ill health."²

After Hull B. Witt, James H. Murdock took command of the company, with George Moulton as 1st lieutenant, and Porter B. Southgate as 2d lieutenant. These three young men, feeling deeply how raw they were in military tactics, went over to Norwich University, stated their case to General Ransom, who then presided over the institution, and asked the general if he could put them through a course of drill in a short time. The general approved, placed them among the cadets, and for a week or more gave them most careful attention, drilling them in the rudiments of military exercise to their hearts' content. As the general declined to receive pay for his services in behalf of the young men, they, on the other hand wishing to make some acknowledgment

¹ Paschal P. Taft.

² Hull B. Witt, Marshall, Mich., June 17, 1885.

in return for his kindness, clubbed together and had a seal made in Boston for the use of the institution, for which they paid sixteen dollars.¹

Captain Murdock served two years and then obtained his discharge. Stephen S. Taylor was elected captain to succeed him, but it is thought the company was never called out by him, and soon after it dwindled away and was disbanded.

FIRST COMPANY OF INFANTRY.

The first company of the 3d regiment, 1st brigade, and 4th division of the militia of Vermont was originally established as early as the year 1776, as would seem from the commission issued to Nathan Howland, ensign, under the authority of the Provincial Congress for the colony of New York on the 22d day of May in that year. This commission reads as follows: —

“To NATHAN HOWLAND, Gentleman

“By virtue of the authority reposed in us We do hereby nominate, authorize, constitute and appoint you Ensigne of the Company of Militia in Woodstock of the County of Cumberland, of which Phinehas Williams is Captain . . . according to the Eleventh Section of the seventh Resolve contained in the Rules . . . for regulating the Militia of the Colony of New York recommended by this Congress August 22^d, 1775

“Attest NATHANIEL WOODHULL, Pres.

“ROBERT BENSON, Sec.”

After Vermont became an independent State, this company was reëstablished as “the Military Company for the Town of Woodstock in the 3d Regiment of Militia,” etc. Of this company Phinehas Williams was elected captain, and it is “a piece of traditionary history that he called his company together and caused the drum to be beat, and the first military order given to bring the soldiers to the ranks was: ‘Bunch up, men, bunch up.’ Tradition does not inform us in what manner he drilled and exercised his company, or the variety of evolutions signified or indicated by the order ‘bunch up.’”¹ When the regiment came to be organized Williams was elected colonel, but declined, and after that date gave up military life altogether. Who was

¹ Mr. Murdock thinks this same seal is still in use at the university. ² N. Williams.

put in captain of the company in his place is uncertain. This company continued to flourish with great success through the entire period that the laws were in force requiring the enrolled militia to appear on parade. It numbered among its captains David Pierce, Nathan T. Churchill, Jeremiah H. Simmons, Jacob Dunham, Jared Thompson, Nathan Cushing, Gilman T. Comings, George C. Pratt, and Nathaniel Randall. Under the last-named captain the career of the company closed in accordance with an act passed at the October session of the General Assembly in 1844, that all acts and parts of acts requiring the enrolled militia to do military duty should be repealed.

FOURTH COMPANY OF INFANTRY.

Besides the company of infantry in the North Parish in Woodstock, there was another in the South Parish, entitled the Fourth Company of Infantry, organized at a very early day, but no records of its proceedings have been obtained. From Chauncey Richardson, and from other sources, some facts concerning this company have been gathered, which are set down here, but are open to correction.

The first captain of the company was Warren Cottle ;¹ Amasa Ransom, lieutenant, at same time. Joseph Wood was captain in 1791 ;² William Ellis in 1796 ; after him, Elisha Lord, Consider Lucas. Ebed M. Burk was captain in 1800. At the same time Nathaniel Randall was lieutenant, and Gaius Perkins a corporal. When Burk resigned, Perkins was promoted captain over Randall. This created much feeling at the time among some, and Perkins's further advancement in the military line was sharply contested for years. Behind him were Bennett Palmer, lieutenant, and Walter Palmer, ensign, waiting for him to get ahead. At length, during the War of 1812, companies of minute men were organized, subject to be called out at a moment's warning. One such company was organized in this town, and the governor appointed Captain Perkins to act as major for the same, should

¹ Warren Cottle was captain as early as 1784. See *Records of Town Meetings*.

² Joseph Wood succeeded Phineas Thomas as captain of the militia, who was promoted to colonel. The first time Captain Wood met with his company after his election, he was very late at the

place of meeting. The company bantered him some in consequence, whereupon the captain replied he had a son born that very morning, most big enough to do military duty. This was his son Joseph, born Sept. 19, 1791. (C. Richardson, Dec. 17, 1870.)

it be called into service. It never was, but, from this appointment, Perkins received his title of major.¹ Abraham P. Mather was corporal in the company at the same time with Perkins. He was brother to Frederick Mather, and the two, being gay and spirited youths, were reckoned not much behind any of the young men in the south part at that time. But when Perkins was advanced Mather still remained corporal. This he regarded as a slight, and, being indignant at the same, used language that the company did not forget. Mather remained corporal for several years, but at length his promotion began.

The following incident in the history of this company is taken from the "Vermont Republican" for January 30, 1809:—

"Saturday, the 21st of January, 1809, the militia company under the command of Captain G. Perkins, in the South Parish in Woodstock, were called together for the purpose of drafting their quota of the one hundred thousand ordered by Congress, who almost unanimously volunteered. We also learn that a considerable number of the old veterans of the Revolution, from forty to seventy years of age, volunteered their services, in order once more, if necessary, to avenge the wrongs of an injured country."

Colonel Thomas, an old Revolutionary officer, and one of the volunteers above mentioned, delivered the following lines extempore, to the citizens assembled on the occasion:—

"The European powers invade our trade
On the high seas which God hath made,
Free for his people there to pass—
In every age—of every class.

"AMERICANS! UNITED BE,
To raise our force by land and sea,
For to defend our righteous cause,
From French decrees and British laws.

"We trust we have good men at helm,
To steer our ship in this vast realm,
Though foreign tempests loudly roar,
Across the ocean to our shore.

¹ When the Legislature met in Woodstock, 1807, the South Company of militia was called upon to serve as Governor's escort on election day, together with the Hartland Artillery, under Captain Campbell. The company was then un-

der the command of Captain Perkins, and was in such fine discipline that the post of honor on the right was assigned it, and the governor remarked that it was the finest company in the State. (C. Richardson, Dec. 9, 1871.)

" *Americans!* Be FIRM, be STRONG!
 Around our standard let us throng :—
 For to defend our sacred rights
 We 'll fight by day, and guard by night."

When Gaius Perkins was elected captain he made a change in some expressions used on the parade-ground. Before his time captains used to say, "Shoulder hoo." Perkins changed this to "Shoulder firelock," which remained the form of this order till 1812, when it was changed to "Shoulder arms."¹

When Perkins resigned, Bennett Palmer was elected captain; but before he had occasion to parade the company he moved down to the Green to live, and Daniel Ransom was elected captain in his place. But Palmer desired the privilege of acting as captain one day, and, as he had served long in the company, by general consent the favor was granted, and upon the next annual June training he took command, Ransom giving way to him for the occasion. Chauncey Richardson was one of the musicians at this time. These events took place in 1812. Benjamin Cottle was elected captain in 1814; then came Oliver Bailey, Abraham P. Mather, Billy Brown. Isaac Parker was the captain in 1825, and was present with his company at the reception given Lafayette in June of that year.

Samuel Wood served as captain after Isaac Parker; then came Monroe McKenzie. Alvah Wilson was elected captain the 26th of May, 1832; John L. Sterlin, lieutenant, and Caleb S. Murdock, ensign. Sylvanus Randall was elected 1st lieutenant June 4, 1833; Silas Perry, 2d lieutenant. Parker Morse was captain in 1834, and commanded the company at the funeral solemnities observed in this village in memory of Lafayette. Other captains of the company were Daniel Ransom, afterwards promoted to colonel, Charles F. Pearsons, Humphrey H. H. Rood, and John McKenzie.

¹ The expression, "Shoulder arms," was beginning in 1808 to supersede "Shoulder firelock." This word *firelock* was pronounced *foolk*. There was a distinction between *arms* and *firelock*. The latter meant the bare musket; the former, the firelock and bayonet united.

Steuben made this distinction, and some one writing in *Spooner's Journal* for July 25, 1803, regards the substitution of "arms" for "firelock," on the parade-ground, as an evil that ought to be remedied.

THE SILVER GRAYS.

When the War of 1812 broke out there was considerable military enthusiasm in these parts among all classes and ages; though, if the truth be told, this feeling was mainly confined to the Republicans. The Federalists as a whole were opposed to the war. However, in this town they were but a handful, not over fifty voters, and these chiefly in the village.

But the people for the most part were thoroughly imbued with the war spirit, and under the influence of it some six or seven different companies were organized in this town. Among these was one which passed on the muster rolls by the name of "The Washington Patriot Company," but which in the community was known and honored by the title of "The Silver Grays." This company was made up of exempts, men who had seen service or had not, as the case might be. These, having some of them a touch of the old Revolutionary fires still burning in their hearts, and being all of them actuated by a laudable wish to keep alive the martial spirit among all ranks of the people, got together and formed themselves into an independent company and trained with the rest, being careful, however, not to subject themselves to any laws but their own. It is not understood that they ever volunteered their services to the government, though doubtless their military ardor was such that they were prepared to do home duty if necessary. After peace was declared, seeing the community had no further use for their services, they disbanded.

In organizing the company the calculation was that the commissioned officers should be chosen from old majors and colonels, if such were to be had; the sergeants and corporals from old captains; though this rule was not strictly observed. For instance, Titus Hutchinson was captain; but he was then a person of great distinction, and carried in his single hand the official force of several majors and colonels. Also John Anthony was ensign; but Anthony was an old sea-captain. The company commonly selected some other day for their parades than the regular training-day. This enabled them to borrow what arms and equipments they desired to use, and so save themselves all needless expense. Judging from one name on the list the company must have been enrolled in the first year of the war, but

Captain Wood thinks¹ it did not parade till the summer of 1813.² The parading was commonly done in this village, once, however, out South. Headquarters were at the upper tavern. The other companies being made up of active young men, nimble spirits, could turn out on parade-days in the morning, before sunrise if they chose; it did not comport with the dignity and tried valor of the veteran "Silver Grays" to muster until the afternoon.

Music was always provided. Sylvanus Raymond and Noah Crooker beat the snare-drums. These two had been drummers in the Revolutionary War, and never missed turning out when the company trained. If the other instruments failed up, the young men volunteered in sufficient numbers to make a good band of music. Among those always ready for service on such occasions was our esteemed fellow-citizen, Chauncey Richardson, who played the fife, and knew a thing or two in this line.

It is a pleasant afternoon in the month of June, 1813. The reader may, if he pleases, picture to himself the noble army of the "Silver Grays" marshaled in order at the east end of the Common. The platoons and files are arranged after the most approved military fashion. At the word of command they move to the beat of the drum with stately pace up the southerly side of the highway, their serried ranks breathing defiance. Where arms are wanting, their looks supply them weapons. You see among the number the Ransoms and the Churchills, the Raymonds and the Thomases, and a host of other familiar forms. Captain Hutchinson leads the van, while Lieutenant Williams closes up the rear. We leave them marching down to posterity, adding in conclusion an exact list of the officers of the company, copied from the original roll, which is still in existence.

WASHINGTON PATRIOT COMPANY.

Titus Hutchinson, *Captain*.

William Ellis, *1st Lieutenant*.

Oliver Williams, *2d Lieutenant*.

John Anthony, *Ensign*.

¹ Written September 9, 1869.

² The exempts in Woodstock have recently formed themselves into a military corp and chosen their officers. And what is the opinion of the Washingtonian wags of Windsor upon this worthy and patriotic proceeding? Why truly they have

given out that it is a combination organizing for the purpose of marching to this place and destroying the office of the Washingtonian. (*Vermont Republican*, July 27, 1812.)

The above shows that the company was organized the first year of the war.

Sergeants.

Joseph Wood.
Bennet Palmer.

Levi Churchill.
Consider Lucas.

Corporals.

Ebed M. Burk.
Elisha Lord.

Willis Hall, Jun.
William Wood, 2d.

THE TROOP.

Among the military companies that in former days flourished in this vicinity the most notable was the company familiarly known as "The Troop." The following manifesto shows how this company originated:—

"Whereas the Genl Assembly at the session in Windsor February 1st, 1783, passed an Act directing that a Company of Dragoons consisting of forty men including officers and privates be raised in the County of Windsor under the following regulations, to wit, To consist of one Captain one Lieutenant one Cornet one Quartermaster, two Trumpeters Four Corporals and thirty privates; the whole company to be dressed in uniform furnished with boots and spurs, to be armed with a carbine, holsters and pistols and hanger, well mounted on a gelding not less than fourteen hands nor more than fifteen high; to be under the immediate command of Col. Wate; no man to engage who can not furnish himself in manner aforesaid without injuring his family and interest. in consequence I hereby give permission to any man in the County not holding a commission in any military company to inrole his name under the aforesaid instructions and when such company is filled up they shall be mustered and led to a choice of officers

BENJ^r WATE Colⁿ "

Attached to this manifesto is the roll of the company as originally organized, embracing the following list of names:—

"Capt. Alexander Parmely.
Lut. Jesse Williams.
Qr. Elisha Hubbard.

Clark, Stepⁿ Conant.
Corporal Stepⁿ Farnsworth.
Sr. Majjor, Isaac Stevens.

Saml. Stone.
Seth Starling, Jr.
Elisha Hawley.
Benj. Cady.
Joseph Molton.
W^m Harlow.

Jonathan Hall.
Eldod Hubbard.
Isaiah Burk.
John Parmely.
Adin Williams.
Elkeny Sprage.

Artemas Robinson.
 Zeb Chandler.
 Thos. Holbrooks.
 Nathan Stone.
 Joseph Safford.
 Oliver Palmer.
 Benoni Patrick.
 Levy Smith.
 Ri^d Taylor.
 Paul Todd.
 Josiah Hurlburt.

Sam^l Daman.
 Jede^h Daman.
 Rob^t D. Taylor.
 Gaius Paddock.
 Jeremiah Thomas.
 Stephen Paddock.
 Nathan Russell.
 Apollos Paddock.
 James Fletcher.
 Lysander Richardson."

In the history of the company as thus organized only one incident has survived. It is related in "Spooner's Vermont Journal," October 13, 1788, and is as worthy of being preserved as some other events of past history which have been handed down to us.

"SEE THE RISING GLORY OF THE STATE!

"WINDSOR, October 13.

"Last Tuesday were attended in this town, the military exercises of Captain Alexander Parmele's company of cavalry, and a company of foot commanded by Capt. Matthew Patrick. The martial decorum that characterized the gentlemen officers and soldiers, induce us to hint to the public the proceedings of the day. Both companies convened on the parade in front of the courthouse at nine o'clock in the morning; when, after some attention paid to manual exercises, they formed in line of battle confronting each other — a challenge was offered by Captain Patrick; but the commander of the cavalry thought proper not to accept of it until two o'clock in the afternoon — when the parties again appeared on the ground, and a regular (mimic) fight commenced. The fire was kept up with alacrity — each party alternately forced to retreat — and the success of the day seemed for a long time dubious; until mutual conciliation hushed the noise of arms. The scene was really picturesque of a field engagement — the appearance was elegant & truly martial — the cavalry dressed in red uniform — and it was observed by ingenious spectators, who have been experienced in war, that the elegance of the officers could scarcely be eclipsed by veteran commanders. All was conducted with order — and terminated without detriment to any individual."

Nothing further is known concerning the fortunes of this company, and after remaining organized a few years, it disbanded.¹

In the year 1797 a general militia law was passed by the Legislature, under which the brigade generals were authorized to complete the cavalry in their respective brigades to at least one full troop in each brigade, and no more. About this time the company of cavalry was organized anew, and Thomas Ellis elected captain. Ellis was succeeded by Captain David Dutton.² After him came Ephraim Allen, who was acting as captain of the troop as early as 1806. Some of the records of Captain Ephraim Allen's company of horse are still in existence, from which a few particulars concerning the proceedings of the company can be derived, not altogether without interest.

It appears from these records that Ephraim Allen remained captain of the company till January, 1809, when he was promoted to major, and to fill the vacancy occasioned by his promotion, Cyrus Allen was elected captain of the troop. Under his command the company seems to have reached the most prosperous period of its existence. The military spirit was then at its height, and this gave animation to the military parades and exercises of June training-days and muster-days, which, being regarded as the grand festive occasions of the year, all classes and ages were accustomed to attend with one accord. Nearly half a century has now gone by since the last of those June trainings, and the memory of the annual muster has almost entirely faded away. But at the time of which we are writing they were celebrated with great spirit, and by none of the military companies in more lively style than by the Troop. The headquarters of the company, for the most part, were in the hall over Charles Dana's store, known in later times as Union Hall. Roll being called and everything made ready, the company on parade-day first proceeded to the Upper Tavern on the Common, where washtubs of punch had been provided. Here all hands partook freely of the precious drink, preparatory to the morning ride to the South Part, where the company frequently met for parade on Farnsworth's meadow. After a swift and cheerful gallop to the South Village, they brought up at the place of destination with throats dry. Having arrived at the tavern the captain treated the company all round. After this came the parade on

¹ Capt. J. B. Farnsworth.

² *Idem.*

Farnsworth's meadow, and so the day wore by till about four o'clock in the afternoon, when the company broke up from the parade-ground, rode back to the upper tavern, stabled their horses till dark, got well-filled sacks, and then went home. High times these young men frequently had on such occasions. Captain Jacob French, who lived near the Mendall schoolhouse, had complained that "the boys" never came to see him when they were out. To make the captain's mind easy on this point, one night between twelve and one o'clock some twelve or fifteen of them started on a visit to his house, being minded to give him a "waker," as they said. But the captain was equal to the occasion, received his visitors with open arms, and gave them a capital breakfast. All hands then went over to Howland Simmons's house, and after having gone through the proper exercises there, they came down to the Green, "and by that time there was a great company of us."¹

It is too true that the breaking-up of the company for the night, and dispersion to their homes, was never a very quiet affair, and some of our elderly people still recall the terrors excited in the youthful mind on these occasions.

Captain Cyrus Allen remained in command of the company till the summer of 1811, when Charles Dana, 1st lieutenant, was elected captain to fill the vacancy. About this time the War of 1812 broke out, and considerable military activity, in consequence, pervaded this village and vicinity. The gay and gallant captain, now in the prime of early manhood, was not without his share in the martial spirit of the times, and expected to be mustered, with his company, at any moment, into his country's service. But it so happened that all his military experience was confined to the neighborhood of these hills, and to the exercise of his company of cavalry on the parade-ground. Within this sphere his activity was remarkable, as many a curious anecdote might serve to illustrate, were it thought best to repeat them here.

On the 20th day of February, 1813, he resigned, and Jonathan Waldron was chosen captain in his place; David Mack, Jr., 2d lieutenant; Howland Simmons, 4th sergeant; Otis Williams, 4th corporal. Jonathan Waldron continued captain till the 15th day of September following, when he resigned, and at a meeting of the company held for that purpose, the same day, at

¹ Gathered from memories of old troopers, now all gone.

Captain Bennett Palmer's inn, Jonathan Wood was elected captain to fill the vacancy. The company remained under Captain Wood's command till April, 1817.

On the first day of that month, the company met according to orders from Lieutenant Mack, at John Pratt's inn, to choose a captain in place of Jonathan Wood, who had been elected major. The company made choice of Lyman Mower. When informed of his election, Mower declined at first, but upon request of Lieutenant Mack, to whom the post of captain by right belonged, and who showed an excellent spirit under the circumstances, he consented to stand. But Mower never called the company out, and a few weeks later he was chosen major in the light infantry, leaving the post of captain in the troop once more vacant.

Without further division or strife, Lieutenant David Mack was now, on the 4th day of June, 1817, chosen captain of the company. The company further made choice of Samuel Waldron as 1st lieutenant; Jacob French, cornet; Benjamin P. Wood, orderly sergeant; Jonathan B. Farnsworth, 4th sergeant; Lewis F. Gallup, 3d corporal; Samuel Lovell, 4th corporal.

It is related in the annals of the times, that when President Monroe, in the summer of 1817, was making his tour of the States, and was on his way through Vermont, the company, under Captain Mack, met the President on the 23d day of July, at Hartford, and escorted him to Woodstock. At ten o'clock in the forenoon the President entered the village, on horseback, and as soon as he reached the lines of citizens formed on each side of the street, he alighted, and with interchange of greetings from all sides, passed up the procession to Mr. Pratt's inn, where he was welcomed by Mr. Marsh and Mr. Swan, of the committee of arrangements. An address was then presented by Mr. Hutchinson, followed by a brief and appropriate answer from the President. Then, in the midst of the firing of cannon and the hearty cheers of the assembled multitude, the President took his swift departure northward, passing through Royalton and Montpelier, and reaching Burlington the following night.

Captain Mack remained in command of the troop till 1819; then, "agreeable to orders received from Maj. Jonathan Wood, directed to Lieut. Lewis F. Gallup, the third company of Cavalry met at John Pratt's tavern in Woodstock on the 30th day of January, 1819, and made choice of Lieut. Lewis Frederick

Gallup for Captain to fill the place of Capt. Mack resigned, and sarg^t Jon^a B. Farnsworth first Lieutenant in the room of Lieut Sam^l Waldron resigned, Corporal David Hodgman Second Lieut. in the room of Lieut. Gallup promoted to Captain, Nathan Williams for Cornet in the room of Cornet French resigned, Corporal Samuel Lovell, 1st Sargent, and Henry Ballard Dana, Sargent, Julius A. Perkins, Sargent, and Samuel Rice, Corporal. Voted by the company that they would change their uniform to Blue Roundabout Jackets, Blue Pantaloons and white vest, and that Col. Lyman Mower, Willis Hall, Jr., and Major Jon^a Wood be a Committee to make the particular arrangements concerning making the same and report to the company." Gallup was a fine-appearing officer, and made a good captain. He really tried hard, though he committed some mistakes. He had the uniform changed; finally got the troop made over into a company of light artillery, and the squadron was dissolved in the spring of 1819,¹ under the following order:—

STATE OF VERMONT.

GENERAL ORDER.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTPELIER, Nov. 9, 1819.

His Excellency the Captain General has been pleased to order that the Company of Cavalry now commanded by Capt. Lewis F. Gallup of Woodstock, and attached to the third Regiment in the First Brigade and fourth Division of the Militia of this state, be and the same is transformed to a Company of Light Artillery, and is hereafter to be known and respected as such.

By His Excellency's Command

DAVID FAY, *Adj't Genl.*

It was Thursday, the 5th day of October, 1820, two days after the general muster, that Captain Gallup started on a journey out West, delivering the roll and company papers to Lieutenant Farnsworth previous to his departure. He stopped at Cincinnati, where he remained a little over a year. While Captain Gallup was absent, it being the general impression among the military men that he had permanently left the State, Lieutenant Jonathan B. Farnsworth received orders from Colonel Lyman

¹ When the squadron was changed into four-pounder, which he brought home. light artillery the company must have a This he burnished up and made to look field-piece. Lieutenant Farnsworth went so smart that the Hartland people thought to Hartland, and there picked up a rusty they must have it back again.

Mower to call out the company for the purpose of choosing a new captain. Warning was issued accordingly, and the company met the 5th day of June, 1821, and chose Jonathan B. Farnsworth captain. Up to this time, for rations to the company, the captains had been accustomed to furnish the liquor, and in general the supply was abundant. Farnsworth made a change in the rations, providing a dinner for each member of the company, and baiting for the horses. The dinner always cost twenty-five cents, and the baiting six cents; the men were to provide their own liquor. The change thus made was a little more expensive to the captain, but proved very beneficial to the company.¹

Some time in the winter of 1821-22, Gallup returned to Woodstock. Considering himself as still captain of the company, he ordered Farnsworth to deliver up the roll to him, making the order the 16th day of May, 1822. For refusing to obey this order, Gallup had Farnsworth court-martialed. The court assembled the 18th day of June following. Present, Colonel John Francis, president; Lieutenant-Colonel Mills May, Major Elisha Fowler, members; Norman Williams, judge-advocate. Jacob Collamer was admitted as counsel for the respondent, and Isaac N. Cushman, counsel for the prosecution. The court had several sessions, and among the witnesses placed upon the stand were Colonel Mower and Colonel Burdick, Dr. Gallup, E. S. Hayden, Daniel Lockwood, Simeon Willard, and others. Finally the court decided that Gallup's post as captain was vacated by his having been absent from the State more than twelve months, and therefore Farnsworth had been properly elected to fill the vacancy.²

Having obtained this decision in his favor, Farnsworth at once resigned, and was succeeded by Samuel Lovell as captain, who called out the company once or twice, and then resigned. After Lovell, there was great trouble in getting a captain, as no one would stand. Finally, Avery Gallup, of Hartland, who was absent at the time of his election, was put in, but he never called the company out. Being in this condition, all run out of officers and not able to get anybody to carry them along, finally, in 1825, the company disbanded.

¹ Capt. J. B. Farnsworth, Oct. 30, 1869.

² See minutes of the trial, in manuscript, *penes nos.*

THE WOODSTOCK ARTILLERY.

The disbanding of the Troop left a large number of young and eager spirits without any special occupation in the military line, yet very unwilling to go back into the ranks of the militia. They preferred to organize into an independent company, and they were encouraged in this feeling by such men as Justus Burdick, B. F. Mower, and others. The result was, that a company was formed under the name of the Woodstock Artillery, the members of which met at Barker's Hotel, for choice of officers, one afternoon late in the year 1825. Orlando N. Dana, then an officer in the light infantry, was chosen captain; B. W. Rice, 1st lieutenant; Thomas McLaughlin, 2d lieutenant; and Henry Mower, ensign. The uniform of the company was to be white vest and pantaloons, a blue coat, black stock, with a leather casque overshadowed by a white plume with red top. In March, 1826, the outfit was provided for officers and men, a six-pound cannon was furnished by the State, and the company stood ready for parade.

Manned, officered, and equipped after the most approved style, the Woodstock Artillery, when it once appeared in the field, sprung into immediate repute. It became, forthwith, an earnest and a dangerous rival in the affections of the multitude to the Woodstock Light Infantry. The Infantry, indeed, could look back upon a most honorable career in the town as a military company. It could point to the names of Churchill, and Ward, and Taft, as having adorned its long roll of captains. It could boast an untarnished reputation sustained both in the hall and on the field through a period of nearly thirty-five years, dating from the organization of the first company. Nor did it lack, at the present crisis, in zeal and ability to sustain its well-earned laurels. But the Artillery had the freshness and animation of youth; its cheeks were flushed with health, and its colors, therefore, danced more brightly in the sunlight than could be expected from the worn hues of its older and more staid rival.

On the 4th of July, 1827, a grand celebration came off at Royalton. Colonel Fowler served as marshal, assisted by Captain Alden Partridge. The Declaration of Independence was read by Jacob Collamer, and Wyman Spooner, editor of the "Royalton Advocate," delivered the oration. Oel Billings acted as toast-

master. But the gayety and brilliancy of the occasion were largely enhanced by the presence of Captain O. N. Dana's company of artillery. This company did the military duties of the day, and its fine appearance and excellent discipline were the theme of universal praise. Also, the following toast was offered in behalf of the company, by Major F. Hunter: —

“ *The Woodstock Artillery*: A proud display of military skill and gentlemanly deportment. They honor the day.”

After O. N. Dana had served some three years as captain he retired, and Bushrod W. Rice was chosen to succeed him. The place of rendezvous for the company on parade days was Dana's Hall, afterwards known as Union Hall, but dinner was always taken at Barker's hotel. Who shall paint the morning splendor of those parade-days, or reflect from the written page a tittle of the charms they wore to the youthful mind?

But among all the gay and curious sights of the day, none was looked for with more eager expectation than the first appearance of the Artillery from its cover and retreat in the hall. Already the single file and drum of the “old floodwood” had sounded, and the company were parading the streets, a motley host. The Light Infantry, too, were now displaying themselves, and illuminating the south side of the Common with their bright uniforms and orderly array. Presently, the tap of the drum, the signal for moving, was heard in the hall of the Artillery; then followed, in single file, the measured step of the soldiers round the hall and down the stairs leading to the street. And now, with lofty tread, the captain, leading the warlike train, advances in right line to the middle of the road, and resting the point of his glittering sabre on the ground for one little moment, silently marks the exact spot for “left wheel.” Following close comes the music, dressed in the gayest colors, and led off by the matchless trio of players,—King, Horatio and Henry T., the memory of whose martial strains, though these have not been heard for long years, is likely to outlive many generations. Thus far every step had been taken to the simple beat of the snare-drum; but now comes the signal for the music to strike up; then follows the swift order to form into ranks of four deep, and, this being done, with swords flashing, plumes waving, and banners streaming, the Woodstock Artillery, to the sound of spirit-stirring instruments, begins its stately march up the street in all its glory.

B. W. Rice remained captain of the company till June, 1830. At an election of field-officers held that month in the 3d brigade and 3d regiment of Vermont militia, B. W. Rice was chosen colonel, and Thomas McLaughlin, major. The removal of these two officers from the company made the way clear for Rufus Colton, next in rank, to the vacant post of captain of the Artillery. Party spirit was then high, and Colton had for opposing candidates Nahum Haskell and Christopher F. Shedd, but though the election was close, Colton carried the day by a fair majority.

After Rufus Colton took command of the Artillery, some changes and improvements were made in the uniform and general appearance of the company. The original plumes were white, with red tops. These were afterwards colored black by Mr. Wright, but the process of coloring gave them a hacked and pinched look that did not comport with the ambition of the company to excel in the beauty of their equipments. They were now laid aside, and red plumes, tall and flowing, were secured for the rank and file, but the commissioned officers still retained the black plume, providing themselves with new ones that rose above their heads to the majestic height of nearly two feet.

The uniform worn by the musicians at the outset consisted of white trimmed and ornamented with red. The first musicians for the company were Nahum Haskell, who played the bugle; Albert King, clarionet; Hosea Doton and Henry T. Marsh, who played the fife; William King, the snare-drum; and a man by the name of Robinson (?), who was leading drummer, and a skilled hand at the business. In Colton's day the music was enlarged in numbers and variety of instruments, and it appeared in new and showy uniform of red. As a contrast to this, the music of the Light Infantry continued dressed in pure white; and, indeed, the rivalry of these two companies did not abate, nor could it be decided easily, sometimes, whose star was in the ascendant.

Gilbert White succeeded Colton as captain of the Artillery, and after serving for a short time gave up his post to Hosea Vaughan, who was duly elected in the fall of 1832, at a meeting of the company held in South Woodstock. Vaughan served for two years with general acceptance, and then turned over the company to Orin N. Wood, who received his commission on the

18th of September, 1834, and took his discharge on the 8th of October following. He was succeeded by Sullivan White, who commanded the company one year and then resigned. After him came Ira Wheeler, of Plymouth. And now the days of the Woodstock Artillery were about to be numbered. For some had said, and insisted upon it, that Ivory L. Vaughan must be captain in place of Sullivan White, but to this the above-named Ivory most strenuously objected, and seeing no other way of escape, went into voluntary exile for one year under the shades of Plymouth Rock. In the mean time the banner of the company had ceased to float in the breeze, and all that remained of this military band was the memory of its heroic deeds and of the splendid array in which it had paraded through the streets of this village for so many years. One little memento of its name did indeed linger about here for a short while. This was the old cannon, the thunder of which had echoed so many times and so beautifully among these hills. The last occasion of its being used here was on the 4th of July, 1843, when a national salute was fired, the gun being under the management of Isaiah H. Carpenter and Hiram Benson. After this it was ordered to Northfield by Governor Paine.

MUSTERS.

For several years before and after the opening of the present century Mr. Joseph Churchill kept a very reputable tavern on the road to Bridgewater, a short distance from the West Meeting-house. This place was something of a centre. In this vicinity the trainings of the Woodstock North company of militia usually took place once a year, and often the light-infantry and cavalry were called to drill here. As the regimental reviews or *musters*, until after the year 1805, were for the most part held on the Williams meadows, "Churchill's Inn" was the public house on such occasions, the parade-ground being in the immediate neighborhood.¹ These musters were occasions of no ordinary interest. The regiment in those days was composed of one company of cavalry, two of light-infantry, one belonging to Woodstock and one to Pomfret, and the following companies not uniformed, namely, the Woodstock North, the Woodstock South, Bridgewater North, Bridgewater South, Reading North and Reading

¹ N. Williams.

South, Barnard South, the Pomfret company, and the Plymouth company. The several companies came on the ground with their own music, drums and fifes, each playing a different tune as they marched to the lines, making the most perfect medley of martial airs, — a complete babel of sounds. As they approached the parade-ground the adjutant and his assistant, the sergeant-major, both on horseback, were the busiest men alive; their plumes were seen dancing about in all directions, until at length they succeeded in quieting the confusion and clatter of the field, and bringing the companies into line preparatory to the grand day's work. The regiment was then formed in two battalions, and the companies took post according to their rank. The battalions were then counted off into platoons and the officers posted. A guard was detailed under the command of a lieutenant, with a sergeant, a corporal, a drummer, and fife, and assigned to their duty in guarding the limits of the parade-ground. When this was accomplished, the cavalry, at the sound of a broken-winded brazen instrument, called a trumpet, were sent off to escort the officers at the inn to the parade-ground. The cavalry returned with the three field-officers (who until 1818 were a lieutenant-colonel and two majors, afterward a colonel, lieutenant-colonel and major), who were received by the regiment with presented arms. The lieutenant-colonel took post in front of the first battalion, the first major in front of the second battalion, and the second major in the rear of the first battalion. The lieutenant-colonel drew his sword and gave his order, "Attention the first battalion! Shoulder arms!" The first major drew his sword and gave his order, "Attention the second battalion! Shoulder arms!" Several orders were then given by the lieutenant-colonel and repeated by the first major. Presently the cavalry, under the blast of the trumpet, brought on to the ground the reviewing general and his staff, who passed in the front, receiving the customary salute. Meantime the drummers and fifers had been collected into two bands, one being placed in front of the first battalion and the other in front of the second battalion, and they cheered the general, as he passed along the line, with the customary salute and grenadier march. The regiment was then put in motion, platoons wheeling on their right and taking up the line of march to pass the general in review, and the congregated fifers put in their highest and shrillest notes, while the

drummers rattled and beat, to the admiration of the martial band and the thronging spectators, male and female, who crowned every eminence that overlooked the field.

The day of general regimental muster was a great occasion, the most noticed and the grandest holiday of the year. The harvest had been gathered, the fruits were ripe, and every variety of these, and the cider which had just been made, were found in the booths which were erected around the parade-ground and at the sides of the highway, where also were sold gingerbread, pies, and cakes of every description. It was a scene of rude festivity, and if the day was fine and fair, all who participated in its amusements were good-natured, and there was rarely a quarrel. If any dissensions arose there were no peace-officers provided, but some master mind in a sound body would come forward and calm the tumult (*ac veluti cum seditio coërta est*, etc.). The day usually passed off with much social glee, and muster-day, which occurred only once in two years, was a red-letter day in the calendar, looked forward to and remembered with much interest by the rising generation.

The most remarkable in some respects of all these reviews was the muster of the 1st brigade, 4th division, of the militia of Vermont, which occurred in September or October, 1814, the only brigade-muster ever held in this section. But three of the regiments composing this brigade were present at the review, the 4th, that is, the Rochester regiment, being excused, as they had done already extra service as volunteers at the battle of Plattsburgh, fought Sunday, the 11th of September, in the year above named. Companies from Norwich, Hartford, Windsor, and Hartland composed the first or Hartland regiment; Royalton, Sharon, etc., made up the second or Royalton regiment; Plymouth, Reading, Bridgewater, Pomfret, and Woodstock, the third. Attached to the brigade were two companies of artillery, one from Hartland, the other from Windsor; and also a squadron of cavalry, consisting of three companies, one each from Royalton, Hartland, and Woodstock. Only a few of the officers who figured on the occasion can be named. Among them were General Seth Wood, commander of the brigade, and Joseph Wood, aid to the general; Colonel Alexander, of Hartland, commander of the 1st regiment, and Colonel Joseph Topliff, of Bridgewater, commander of the 3d regiment; Major

Humphrey Rood, of Hartland, commander of the squadron of cavalry ; Noah Wood, captain, Lyman Mower, sergeant-major, and Bela Simmons, adjutant, in the Woodstock Light Infantry ; Benjamin Cottle, captain, Oliver Bailey, lieutenant, and John Arnold Cottle, ensign, in the Woodstock South company of militia. Add to these Major Beriah Brown, an officer in the United States army.

Colonel Alexander, early in the morning of muster-day, paraded his regiment on King's flat, and then sent an officer to General Wood for orders for the day. The general told the officer he must call on Major Beriah Brown for orders, to whom he had delegated the command of the brigade for the occasion. When the officer delivered this order to Colonel Alexander, the colonel, swearing he would not train under a United States officer, marched his regiment at once to the Common, and drew up in front of the court-house, the regiment facing it and looking toward the north. Next south of him the 3d regiment was drawn up, and behind the third the 2d regiment came, the lines of the several regiments extending from the lower to the upper end of the Common. On the right of the 1st regiment the artillery and cavalry were stationed.

The soldiers being thus paraded looked at one another for some time, waiting the motions of the commanding officers ; presently the whole body marched over to Howland's meadows, that is, the meadows lying northerly and easterly of the stone-mill on the North Branch, which now form a part of Mr. Billings's landed estate. Arrived there, the troops were formed in the following order : the Windsor artillery occupied the extreme right ; then came the Hartland artillery ; the squadron of cavalry followed next ; then came the 1st regiment, then the 3d, while the 2d regiment occupied the extreme left. The music consisted entirely of fifes and drums, several scores of each, exhibiting every variety of shape, pitch, size, and quality possible in these instruments. Isaac Churchill acted as drum-major, and William Townsend, of Reading, as fife-major, both of them scholars heretofore under the celebrated musician, Sprague, who took part in Shays's Rebellion.

The march from the Common to Howland's meadows had afforded the soldiers some relief from the monotony of standing still and looking at one another to see what would come next,

and their spirits rose accordingly, but after getting once posted in their new quarters, they soon found themselves subsiding into the same inglorious inactivity. About the middle of the afternoon the general, having found a peg to hang his hat on while buckling his belt, next took the hat down, and, having put it on, was escorted to the parade-ground by a detachment of the "Troop," where he remained a short time, and then retired from the field.

Finding matters going thus, and the case growing more dubious every moment, the field-officers called a council to consider the situation. While they were thus engaged in consultation, the soldiers on the right began to flash and squib, whereupon the rest of the line took up the signal, and the flashing and squibbing redoubled. The officers, seeing there was like to be trouble and division in the ranks, if action was delayed, broke up the council, and the colonels, returning to their regiments, soon dismissed them, it being now sundown. Most of the soldiers scattered from the field and went home, but several companies marched in a body to the village, halting on the Common. Among these was the Windsor artillery, which took its stand at the east end of the Common, and began firing over Major Swan's garden, where the stone buildings have been since erected. A black cloud had come up from the west, spreading over the sky and enveloping every thing in pitchy darkness, but the company, not to be wholly disappointed in the day's performance, and seeing no other convenient way to vent their feelings, plied the gun with rapid and heavy discharges that caused the darkness to be illuminated, and everything about to shake and tremble. "Windsor never spared for powder when they came to Woodstock."

The Royalton regiment stopped overnight at Winslow's tavern. They cut up fearfully. Among other performances they got hold of an old andiron, knocked the head off, and called it by the name of General Wood. Then followed a long string of proceedings to celebrate the death and burial of the general, and he was consigned to his last resting-place with all the ceremony and pomp of military parade.

In modern times musters and reviews were held for the most part on Mower's meadow, a mile south of the village, as being the most convenient and suitable place for such purpose anywhere in the vicinity. Here, on Saturday, the 26th day of September, 1840, was held what may be called the final exhibition

of this sort in Woodstock, when the 24th regiment, embracing the militia of the towns of Woodstock, Windsor, Hartland, Reading, Bridgewater, and Sherburne, commanded by Colonel Daniel Ransom, were reviewed in the presence of General Truman B. Ransom, at that time the most efficient tactician and the best commanding officer in the State of Vermont. A brief notice of General Ransom is here appended.

TRUMAN B. RANSOM.

Early in the eighteenth century Joseph Ransom, ancestor of Truman B. Ransom, settled in Lyme, Conn. He had seven children; among the number, Mathew, great-grandfather of Truman B., born the 23d day of August, 1711. He resided in Lyme, and married Sarah Way, of that town, the 16th day of December, 1736. He had a large family, born in Lyme, as follows: Richard, the 13th of May, 1740; Lydia, the 26th of June, 1742; George, the 14th of April, 1744; Elisha, the 6th of February, 1746; John, the 23d of February, 1748; Irena, the 4th of January, 1750; Mathew, the 30th of September, 1756; Daniel, the 10th of May, 1760. Mathew Ransom, the father, died, October 5, 1760, at Swagon, Province of New York (?), in the service.¹ His widow, and all the children, about the year 1781, moved to Woodstock, Vt., except that Mathew and Daniel settled in the adjoining town of Hartford. She died in Woodstock, January 6, 1799, aged eighty-four years.

George Ransom, second son of Mathew, was married to Anna Tiffany, in Lyme, the 3d day of March, 1768. He, too, had a large family of children, among the number, Amasa, born January 31, 1769. Amasa came to Woodstock with his father, and in this town married Abigail Root, and their children were the following: Julia, born September 30, 1794; Harriet, born Jan-

¹ Mr. C. G. Eastman, writing, in 1840, of General Ransom, says: "On the breaking out of the Revolution, his great-grandfather, with his two sons, immediately entered the army, and were in the memorable expedition under Arnold which penetrated through the wilderness, to the walls of Quebec. In the desperate assault made by Montgomery the venerable old gentleman lost his life, mingling his blood with that of his gal-

lant commander." This is interesting, but I do not understand it. The statement in the text concerning the death of Mathew Ransom, great-grandfather of Truman B., is taken from the records of Lyme, Conn. With this corresponds the tradition handed down in the family, that he died in the service, during the last French and Indian War, in 1760, somewhere in the Province of New York.

uary 14, 1796; Olive, born September 10, 1797; Cassandana,¹ born July 27, 1799; Truman Bishop,² born September 20, 1802; Eliza Field, born January 31, 1807. Mr. Ransom was for many years a merchant in South Woodstock, in company with the Cottles, and not very successful in trade. He is represented as having been a good musician, a well-intentioned and amiable man. At his death, which occurred April 30, 1819, he left his family in a nearly penniless condition. His wife survived him many years, and died, January 22, 1841, being then sixty-five years old.

At the age of thirteen Truman Bishop Ransom was placed by his friends in the shop of Mr. Artemas Lawrence, of South Woodstock, to learn the trade of chair-maker and painter. He was inclined to studious habits, and early showed great fondness for reading, and a disposition to acquire knowledge. Fortunately for him his employer, Mr. Lawrence, was not inclined to discourage the young man in such pursuits, having himself something of a literary turn. Ransom, pursuing his studies as he did in connection with his trade, came by degrees to a great desire to give up his pursuit as a chair-maker and turn his attention to study, and, to this end, applied to Lawrence to be released from his engagement. This, however, Lawrence positively refused to do. About the year 1818 Lawrence moved to Quechee, and took his apprentice with him. At this stage of their engagement Ransom offered to labor for Lawrence every alternate quarter, and to do double the usual amount of work, provided he would allow him to attend school half the time. Lawrence agreed to this arrangement, and Ransom joined the academy at Norwich. He took his fife and played for the cadets while on drilling exercises, and in this way made himself quite acceptable to Captain Partridge. For nearly three years this arrangement continued in operation. To accomplish all the labor brought upon the young man in this way, he was obliged to work early and late and forego many of the recreations enjoyed by his classmates, as well as devote to toil many of the hours that ought to have been given to rest.

¹ Died in South Woodstock on the 12th inst., the amiable Mrs. Cassandana Slayton, wife of Mr. Leland Slayton, aged 42. (*Vermont Mercury*, Feb. 18, 1842.)

² Amasa Ransom's wife, Abigail, was

a zealous Methodist, and from this circumstance Truman Bishop derived his name, being so called after Elder Truman Bishop, a Methodist preacher living at the time in South Woodstock.

After Mr. Lawrence died, Ransom took his shop and business, and carried on the trade with success several months, and manufactured and collected furniture enough, as he thought, to provide the necessary means for completing his education, in connection with other sources of income from his labor. About this time a fire occurred in the building where his property was stored, by which he lost everything. With the wreck of his property, amounting to less than one hundred dollars, he re-entered the academy at Norwich, where he remained till it was removed to Middletown, Conn., paying for his instruction in the mean time by playing in the military band attached to the institution, and for his board by occasional labor at his trade. While the military academy was at Middletown he was offered and accepted the position of teacher of mathematics in the institution, and retained it as long as the academy was in operation in that place. After this, in connection with his friend Dunbar, he established an institution of similar character in Orange, N. J., which continued in successful operation for a period of two years, when, by reason of the premature death of his associate, the enterprise was given up. Shortly after, he established a school on similar principles in Fayetteville, N. C., which soon came to be in a very prosperous condition. The institution had already continued about fifteen months, and Ransom was now beginning to accumulate some means for himself, when the great fire of 1832 broke out in that city, sweeping away six hundred buildings, including the academy and every cent of property its proprietor had in the world. He was next engaged as professor of mathematics and military tactics in the college at Jefferson, in the State of Mississippi. During his connection with that college he was repeatedly offered the presidency of the same, but declined, and soon withdrew from that place, as the climate did not agree with the health of his family. In 1834 he returned to Norwich and settled in that town, where he continued to reside, for the most part, through the rest of his life.

A full sketch of General Ransom's connection with the military academy at Norwich belongs properly to other hands, but a very brief notice of his military career may be given here. Soon after his connection with the academy became fully established he was frequently called upon by the officers in the militia in different parts of the State to drill them at their meetings for instruction.

He proved so efficient a drill-master that he was repeatedly urged to take office in the militia. At length a volunteer company attached to the 3d brigade was raised in Norwich, of which he was elected captain. When, a few weeks later, the election of a lieutenant-colonel for the regiment came on, such was the general wish to secure the services of so excellent an officer that, with the consent and approbation of most of his superiors in rank, he was raised to the post of colonel. Two years afterwards he was elected brigadier-general, and on the resignation of General Phelps, he was elected major-general in the division. It was during the time that he was acting as colonel of the regiment that he was selected by the governor and council to revise the military laws; and, pursuant thereto, he prepared a plan for an entirely new organization of the militia. This plan, though not adopted by the Legislature at the time, was essentially the same as the law afterwards adopted in 1839. General Ransom entered into service in the Mexican War, and was killed at the battle of Chapultepec, September 13, 1847.

CHAPTER XVI.

MILLS.

THE OIL-MILL.

ON the 11th of August, 1792, Jacob Wilder, of Saltash, gentleman, bought of Jason Richardson a small spot of ground on the east bank of the South Branch, a short distance below the court-house, on the road leading to Hartland.

The plot measured five rods in front by seven deep. On the southeast corner of it there stood a fine cherry-tree. At the same time Richardson leased to Wilder one fourth of an acre of land on the branch for a pond, to be raised by building a dam across the brook six feet high. The lease embraced the privilege of flowing all land south from the said fourth of an acre upon the stream for the space of about fifty-nine rods, to the height of a ledge of rocks which was reputed the lower end of the upper meadow. Wilder was to pay annual rent of one penny, and was to draw off the water every year from the first of May to the first of September, whenever the water exceeded six inches in depth on the top of the dam.

To start an oil-mill in Woodstock was no small matter in those early days, and it is not surprising, therefore, that Wilder was slow in building. Indeed, he was not really settled in Woodstock till the year following this purchase. On the 22d of March, 1793, he leased Lysander Richardson's farm, known in later days as the King farm, on Pleasant Street. He gave a bond at the same time to Captain Richardson, which is still in existence, and in the bond he is styled Jacob Wilder, of Saltash. He probably took possession of the farm when Dr. Richardson left it that spring to move to Pittsford. During the same year he commenced, but perhaps did not finish, the building of the oil-mill. If the captain did not start well in Woodstock, it was not for want of encouragement and sympathy from the Richardsons, for they opened every avenue to him in the way of sale and lease of lands, and terms of payment were in all cases made easy. Let

it be said that the Richardsons did their part, and so did the captain in his way.

Just when Wilder finished and began work in the mill cannot now be ascertained, but it was certainly as early as 1794, for near the close of that year he advertised linseed oil for sale for cash or to exchange for flaxseed at his mill. There can be no doubt that the business was a good one at the time, but the want of capital must have cramped Wilder, and, besides, he never had the faculty of making money. He continued to run the mill until the spring of 1802, and then sold out to Elkanah Phelps, of Windsor. Phelps made a clean purchase of everything, mill-privilege and lot, store-lot and all, getting rid of the leases. He himself lived in Windsor, but he took John Strong as partner, opened a store in Wilder's shop, improved and carried on the mill, erected a house just above it, kept the property a year and a half, and then finding himself going down generally, sold out to William Rice for nineteen hundred dollars.

Among the persons of note who flourished in Woodstock seventy years ago, not the least remarkable was William Rice. His father, Reuben Rice, lived in Worcester, Mass., and in 1760 married Lydia Wilson of that town. Here William Rice was born the 9th of February, 1766. In September, 1786, in connection with Reuben Rice, he bought, if we have learned correctly, two hundred acres of land in Halifax, Vt., a town first settled in 1761 by Rices from Worcester. After making this purchase, he turned his attention to farming for a while, and early in the year 1790 married Sally Stratton, of Gerry, Mass. Having at length given up being a farmer, he next moved to Randolph, and there set up a store, remaining in that place perhaps two years. He then came to Woodstock and became a resident of this village in the spring of 1797. That he settled here about that time seems certain, from the wording of a writ issued on a judgment recovered against Rice by Stephen Conant, of Windsor, at the county court for Orange County, June term, 1797.

Being now fairly established in Woodstock, he was appointed sheriff of Windsor County, October 30, 1798, and held the office four years. In connection with this office he some of the time kept a tavern, probably on a cheap scale, as was a common practice in those days. In January, 1803, he bought the red store and the "Perlash" standing in front of Taylor's hotel, and set

up in trade in company with Porter & Jones. The firm continued in business till August, 1804, when the partnership was dissolved, and Rice went on alone about two years and a half longer. He then gave up the red store to John Barr. In the mean time Rice had invested largely in real estate, and for a while was owner of nearly all the land from the red store down to James Emerson's. He spent freely, too, and was always ready to give to any public cause. But his property soon melted out of his hands, and he himself was imprisoned, at the suit of John Fitch, of Boston, for a note of hand, but was released in April, 1810, on condition of his giving a *new note* for the debt, which old way of paying old debts he no doubt fell in with cheerfully. He left Woodstock about two years after this, going north, and died at Restigouche, Canada, August 14, 1827.

William Rice was a terrible joker. The matter was in him, and it vented itself on all possible occasions and in every conceivable shape. People recollect what a reputation his son George had in this respect, but George was moderation itself compared with his father. A single instance of the father's style in these matters, and that a mild one, is all that can be given here. While Rice owned the oil-mill, a man by the name of Richardson lived in the house next above Mrs. Chapin's, whose son was working in the mill. One bright morning on the 1st of April, 18—, this man was quietly engaged in the kitchen shaving himself, when Rice burst into the room and told him his son had just been crushed in the oil-mill. The poor man was paralyzed for a moment with horror, but recovering himself he rushed up the road to the mill. What a figure he cut in his shirt-sleeves and bareheaded, with his face half shaved, half lathered, as he ran wildly on, may be imagined. Rice, of course, was on ahead, and had his neighbors all prepared to witness the show and to assist in condoling the unfortunate father, who, when he reached the mill, found his son perfectly well and about his work.

In 1809 the oil-mill came, by mortgage from William Rice, into the possession of David Porter, who, on the 15th of February in the same year, deeded it to John Carlton and Amos Warren. While Carlton and Warren had the management of the mill it proved a lucrative business, but Carlton dying in the spring of 1811, his moiety of the mill was deeded by the heirs to William



Raymond, of Bridgewater, in August, 1812, and the business of making flaxseed oil went on at the old stand under the firm of Warren & Raymond. This firm carried on the mill for two years, when they sold out to Lyman Mower, Raymond first and Warren afterwards. Mower carried on the mill for many years. But the business was now growing rather heavy. Flaxseed was cash, and was getting more and more difficult to find. People were giving up raising it near by, and the general was obliged to send to Randolph, Brookfield, and other places north, for his seed. In these towns he left his orders in the fall to buy what seed was offered, advancing the money, and in the winter he ran his teams up there, gathered in his supplies, and brought them to the mill. This course made the mill hard for the proprietor to carry on in those days, when money was so scarce, as it absorbed funds needed in other departments of trade he was then carrying on. Some idea of the amount of business he did in this line may be gathered from the fact that at the time of the spring flood in 1826, when the works came so near being swept away, he had a thousand barrels of oil in the mill and a thousand bushels of flaxseed. The dam destroyed at that time was the one erected by Wilder. The present dam was built by General Mower.¹

At length, on the 10th of December, 1829, the general deeded the mill to R. D. Granger, of Pittsford, who converted it into a furnace.

This furnace was opened for business the 12th day of July, 1830. It was provided with good material and good workmen, and continued in operation six years, when Granger sold out to Daniel Taft, who removed the works to Taftsville.

BENNETT'S MILLS.

The mill-privilege at this point was conveyed at the beginning by Jesse Safford to Jabez Bennett, Phinehas Thomas, Seth Washburn, and John Pratt, by deed dated May 12, 1788. The land and mill-spot thus conveyed lay on Quechee River, the southeasterly side of Jesse Safford's homestead farm, and Jabez Bennett held in the premises an interest of seven-sixteenths, Phinehas Thomas of five-sixteenths, Seth Washburn of two-sixteenths,

¹ The dam at this point was rebuilt by the citizens to buy up the water-privilege C. W. Sayward, September, 1877. An effort was made at the time by some of the citizens to buy up the water-privilege at this point and have the dam removed, but this did not succeed.

and John Pratt of two-sixteenths, but Pratt went out of the enterprise very soon. They were to hold the premises so long as they, their heirs or assigns, should "build and maintain a good saw-mill and a good corn-mill in good repair for business," etc. A saw-mill and corn-mill were probably erected and the mills in operation as early as the date of this deed. Jabez Bennett was the principal man in building the works, and for thirty years and upwards remained the proprietor of the mills.

About the same time these mills were put up Seth Silvester established clothier's works in the vicinity, and a fulling-mill. The fulling-mill adjoined the grist-mill, and occupied the lower end of the building. In the lot, a short distance from the fulling-mill, the clothier's works were set up, on land bought of Jesse Safford, about an acre in all, and the deed from Safford to Silvester describes it as "beginning at a stake and stones standing on the south side the road half way betwixt the said Jesse's house and the house that his father resides in, thence south 48° east on the mill-road 19 rods to stake and stones on the saw-mill yard line, thence on the saw-mill line south 6° east two rods and 16 links; thence north 84° west 17 rods; thence north 33° west 8 rods; thence on the road north 49° east ten rods to the beginning; being a piece of land lying on the saw-mill in Quechee River, with the privilege of taking the brook out of the said Jesse's land at the old beaver dam and conveying it through the said Seth's land." The date of this deed is June 28, 1788.¹

Silvester was assisted in his enterprise of establishing the fulling-mill and clothier's works by the Rev. George Daman, who held a half interest in the same. After carrying on the clothier's works two years, he sold out to Ephraim Eddy; "being the land said Silvester bought of Jesse Safford together with one half the clothier shop and Dye House with all the tools appertaining and privileges thereunto belonging, together with all his right to the fulling-mill on Bennett's mill-dam with all his privileges in said dam and floom as agreed between Mr. Jabez Bennett, Capt. Phinehas Thomas, and Mr. Seth Washburn on the one part, and the Rev. George Daman and Seth Silvester on the other part."² Seth Silvester, therefore, was the one who first set up clothier's works and a fulling-mill at this stand.

Ephraim Eddy, to whom Silvester sold the works in February,

¹ *Land Records*, vol. ii., page 31.

² *Land Records*, vol. ii., page 250.

1791, was the son of Nathan Eddy, of Middleborough, Mass., who came to Woodstock as early as 1779, and bought lands lying in the Apthorp West tract. Ephraim farmed it and held various offices in the town for some ten years, then purchased these clothier's works. He carried on the business in all its branches alone till July, 1797, when he took into partnership his brother Isaac, formerly of Windsor, and the two went on in business together till Ephraim's death, September 3, 1799. Ephraim was a man of influence and character in the neighborhood, but not very successful in the clothier's business, and died at the early age of thirty-nine. He was married October 10, 1782, to Mary Safford, daughter of Colonel Joseph Safford. Their children were the following: Safford Eddy, born October 20, 1783; an uncommonly bright and intelligent man. He engaged in mercantile pursuits, and was clerk on the Green for several years for Charles Dana and Roger Williams. About 1806 he went to Chelsea and entered into partnership with General Allen, of Walpole, and did business under the firm of Allen & Eddy. There he built a house about 1809, and his mother and sisters went to live with him. February 1, 1810, he married Clara Meacham, daughter of Frederick Meacham of this town, and died the 25th day of that very month.

Lucinda, born May 28, 1785, was married to Harry Hale, of Chelsea, and was still living a few years ago. Mary, born June 22, 1787, was the second wife of Henry C. Denison of this town. Clarinda was born May 8, 1789. Henry Highton was born October 16, 1791. Laura, born January 14, 1794, was the first wife of John W. Smith, Esq., of Chelsea.

After the death of Ephraim Eddy his brother Isaac removed to Pittsfield, selling out his interest in the clothier's works to Caleb Miller in December, 1803. Miller had carried on the works some little time already, but soon after this date was succeeded in the business by Daniel G. Upham, a man of considerable experience and skill in this department of labor.

In 1804 Jesse Dunham, of Royalton, placed sets of carding-machines at this same stand, and these are esteemed the first works of the kind in the town and in the vicinity.

A great amount of business was now going on at this centre. Besides the saw-mill and grist-mill, which always did a heavy work, the carding-machines and fulling-mill adjoining were kept

in constant operation, and so were the clothier's works and the dye-house for dyeing and dressing cloth. Particular mention should be made also of Moses Bradley's establishment for carrying on potter's works.

Moses Bradley, the father of John W. Bradley, came from Haverhill, Mass. He married Deborah West, at Concord, N. H., and went to live in Addison, Vt., settling on a spot known from that day to this as Chimney Point. He worked at the brown earthenware business while in Addison, and lived there rather more than seven years. From Addison Mr. Bradley moved to Windsor, and stayed in that town two or three years, then came to Woodstock with his family and settled on Bradley Flat, as the spot was called at the time from this fact, but in later times called West Woodstock. Mr. Bradley established himself in business on this spot the 1st day of June, 1800, taking possession of the house previously owned and occupied by Colonel Joseph Safford. A man by the name of Edson had been engaged in the pottery business here for some years before this, but he was now gone, leaving the field free to Mr. Bradley. On the site of the house recently occupied by Aaron Whitney, Mr. Bradley set up his shop, and began forthwith the manufacture of cream-pots, jugs, pitchers, milk-pans, etc., and not only was his establishment famous among the housekeepers of this vicinity and abroad, but it was a special centre of attraction to the crowds of children in their leisure moments, who attended the public school at the Flats in those days. One of these children has described what he saw there in the following language: "I have stood silently by him a great many hours and watched him, while from a lump of clay put upon his wheel he would draw up a structure which would turn out to be a vase, a pitcher, or a jug. If a vase, the walls were carried up perpendicularly; if a pitcher, when the sides were carried up, he would at some place on the rim put his thumb on the outside and his finger on the inside and bend down the slope, which would be the pitcher's nose; and if a jug, he would put both hands across the upper part of the vessel and contract it, and around the forefinger of his left hand he would bring up the top of the vessel to form the nose of the jug. I admired to watch this handicraft, but the converting of dull colored bars of lead into a brilliant red powder and then a red glazing — a liquid with which the outsides of the pottery were washed

—was a mystery which, in my ignorance of chemistry, seemed to savor of witchcraft and necromancy.”¹

Mr. Bradley pursued for some years a thriving business at the earthenware trade, but finally gave up the entire concern to his son John, who took charge of the pottery-works September 20, 1824, — continuing the business, however, only a short time ; and with him was the end, it may be said, of this branch of industry at Bennett's mills.

Jabez Bennett retained the proprietorship of the saw-mill and grist-mill till the spring of 1824, and then sold out to Arthur Bennett, Jr., “one half of the grist-mill and three eighths of the saw-mill, together with the like proportions of the dam on which they stand, being the mills which I now own commonly called Bennett's mills, with the use and privilege of a carding-machine.” About the same time Rufus Holmes became the miller, and took charge of the grist and saw-mills, while Arthur Bennett carried on the clothier's works.

There were also cabinet-shops and blacksmith-shops near by, constantly at work, and at all times doing something. As early as February, 1825, Jesse Churchill was carrying on the wheel-making business at his shop near Bennett's mills, at which he made and sold woolen-spinning-wheels, patent linen-wheels, clock-reels, and patent winders. Nor should the comb-factory be forgotten, at which were made genuine combs for the ladies, many specimens of which, doubtless, may still be found in the country round about. Mr. John D. Powers was the one who closed this business out some fifty years ago. There was now no sale for the combs, as a cheaper article was placed in the market which underbid them everywhere, and Mr. Powers found that the business was gone, leaving him with a supply of the combs on hand. Having an idea he would go out West and look the country over, he packed his stock of combs in a box and took them with him, traveling through the State of New York by the grand canal. This was in the year 1835. Having reached Detroit, and tried the market a little, he found no sale for his combs there, as the price was too high, the market being supplied with combs of inferior quality and less price. He now pushed on as far as Pontiac, where Origen Richardson was settled ; looked round about him some, became satisfied that was not the country for him, and turning about, came home again, bringing his box of

¹ N. Williams.

combs with him. He now carried the combs to Mr. Philo Hatch, who was then keeping a tin-shop on the Green. Mr. Hatch took them of him at a fair price, and found no trouble in distributing them among the various peddlers and venders of tin wares that frequented his shop. Such was the end of the manufacturing of combs in Woodstock.

But the time had now come when important changes were to take place in the business arrangements at Bennett's Mills. On the 24th day of June, 1830, Rufus Holmes conveyed to Royal Blake, Abraham Stearns, and David Pierce, all the land he possessed in Woodstock, on which stood his grist-mill and saw-mill, mill-privilege, dwelling-house and outbuildings, ten acres in all, lying on both sides of the river. Six days afterwards Arthur Bennett conveyed to the same parties about an eighth of an acre in the vicinity of the mills, including the clothier's works, "with the right to turn the brook by my house above the bridge into a canal to be built in the most convenient place." Two undivided fifth parts in all these lands, rights and privileges, the said Blake, Stearns, and Pierce conveyed to Reuben Daniels and Thomas E. Daniels, January 1, 1831.

The machine-shop, so called, was now erected on the lower flat, and a company formed of the above-named gentlemen, owners of this property, under the firm name of R. Daniels & Co.¹ The water for propelling the machinery was conducted by a canal to the works, as it is at the present day. A very successful business was carried on at this place for many years in the manufacture of carding-machines, spinners, shearing-machines, pickers, and other articles of the same character. In 1836 this establishment manufactured machinery for the Burlington Mill Company to the amount of \$24,000. Some fifty men found employment in the shop and mills, and the various articles manufactured by the company had a high reputation, and were used in all the woolen-factories in this and the neighboring states.

The company continued business till 1842, when the tight times and Tyler's "policy" compelled them to suspend operations, and the partnership was dissolved by one of the partners.²

¹ On the ground where the machine-shop was placed stood a cabinet or cooper's shop at the time, occupied by Hiram Bradley. This shop was moved across the highway, and converted into a dwelling-house, and is the small, plastered

house still standing on the northerly side of the road, over against the machine-shop.

² In 1847 there was a general breaking-up of the company, when Judge Pierce took the mills for his share.

The business, however, though diminished after this date, was not stopped altogether, but was carried on by other parties, and considerable was done in the manufacture of machines patented by Mr. Daniels. After several years, Mr. Daniels took into partnership George L. Raymond, but when the War of the Rebellion broke out Raymond enlisted in the service, and died at Washington.

At the same time that the firm of Daniels & Raymond was in operation, Aaron W. Whitney manufactured tinman's tools, etc., at a good profit, having his shop in the building which had previously been the fulling-mill. At this period, business, though not as active as in former days, was reasonably brisk and remunerative. One cold night in December, 1864, it being the 24th day of the month, the machine-shop took fire and was burnt. The following summer the shop was rebuilt in a superior manner, and business went on as heretofore, under the name of the Daniels Machine Company. On the 4th of October, 1869, a flood in the Quechee swept away the old mill-dam which, with moderate repairs, had stood for over eighty years. By this casualty Mr. Whitney's works were left high and dry, and Mr. Whitney himself, after having been employed in the mills here for more than thirty years, removed, with his family, first to Smithville, N. J., then to Stonington, Conn., where he died a few years ago.

No effort was made by Mr. Daniels in his lifetime to rebuild the dam, but in 1870 he purchased a caloric engine, which, however, afforded but scant power for running the machinery in the shop. In January, 1876, he died, and the works were then put in charge of Wales N. Johnson, Mr. Daniels' foreman, by the administrator of his estate. In September, 1877, Mr. Johnson purchased a steam-engine of ten horse-power, at the works of J. C. Hoadley, Lawrence, Mass., which furnished sufficient power for the shop. Then, on the 5th day of November, 1879, he purchased the estate's interest in the property, and directly after took Isaiah Benson into the concern as partner, and the business was continued under the old name of "Daniels Machine Company." In the summer of 1880 they renewed the flume to the machine-shop and blacksmith-shop. The following year they cleaned out the canal, digging down to the original bed, and removing about a thousand loads of dirt. This dirt was used to fill up the wash-out south of the bulkhead, which took place first at the flood of 1811, and again at the flood of

1869. The bulkhead itself at the head of the canal they renewed this same season, and also rebuilt the dam, beginning the work on the 25th day of July and completing it the 17th day of August following, at an expense of \$3,000, and that day the water was let into the canal once more.

JABEZ BENNETT.

Jabez Bennett, the original proprietor of Bennett's Mills, was the son of William and Tabitha Bennett, and was born in Middleborough, Mass., September 11, 1754. His paternal ancestor, John Bennett, son of Peter Bennett, was a native of Bristol, England, and was born in the year 1642. At the age of twenty-three he emigrated from England and went to Jamestown, Va., but not finding suitable employment there, he moved to Beverly, in Massachusetts. In the days of Salem witchcraft he took up his residence in Weymouth, where he remained a year, and then settled in Middleborough, which thenceforward continued to be the family residence.

Jabez Bennett, while yet a young man, left Middleborough and dwelt for awhile in Grantham, N. H., from which place he came to Woodstock, with his brother William, about the year 1776, and selected and began to improve the farm on which he continued to reside for the rest of his life. His original purchase contained eighty acres, a deed of which he received from William Powers, the 21st of June, 1776. He built on his land, in the first place, a log house, which he and his brother William occupied together. In meantime, as taverns and boarding-places, including Fifth Avenue hotels, were then exceedingly scarce in these regions, Jabez was fain to seek night's lodgings for the present at Nathan Howland's, on North Branch. He was fond of repeating, in after times, some of the adventures he met with in traveling to his lodging-place under the darkness of the night, after the day's work on his farm was ended. As soon as circumstances permitted he put up a comfortable frame house, which continued standing and occupied till within a few years, and was then taken down by James H. Murdock. In later times the farm has been divided, and within its original limits four dwelling-houses are now standing.

During the first portion of Mr. Bennett's residence in Woodstock he was much interested and much engaged in pushing for-

ward improvements of various kinds in the new settlement. Where solid and substantial work was to be done, there Jabez Bennett was found busily employed. Under his direction Bennett's Mills and English Mills were erected; also mills in Barnard and other places. If a bridge was to be built anywhere about, he commonly had a hand in the business; quite frequently as contractor for the job. Mr. Bennett was a man who never indulged in speculations and dreams, and consequently his idea was that work of this kind should be constructed so as to stand all reasonable shocks to be expected in the course of human events. He therefore, first of all, gave most careful attention to the foundation, appealing to the "Sermon upon the Mount" for his authority, and confidently asserting that rains and floods and winds are liable to come any day, and sure to come some time. Then as to the superstructure; that must not be thin and airy, but firm like the foundation, so that the whole structure, from top to bottom, might be the embodiment of solidity and substance. He would have preferred that the bridge he was constructing should be built of stone, as well as the abutments on which it rested; but as this was inconvenient, good solid wood might be used, and diligence and thoroughness in the work must make up the difference, so far as possible, between wood and stone for material to build with. In like manner, the framework of a house ought to be composed of solid plates, supported and joined together by upright beams almost as solid, and the rafters must be no pipe-stems, but thick timber to match the rest of the framework. It was believed, and no reasonable man entertained any doubt after Jabez Bennett said so, that a house thus planned and put together would not tumble down in a night, nor blow away in any ordinary storm.

The more fastidious class of carpenters and joiners did, indeed, make themselves merry sometimes at the expense of "Uncle Jabez," averring that he gave directions to his workmen to "measure off three paces and make a mortise," and that in his smaller measures he had "a large inch, a small inch, and just an inch." But however that might be, his stone work and his wood work partook of the style and structure of his own staunch physical frame, and were to be admired and commended more for their durable character than for architectural beauty.

Mr. Bennett did not intermeddle much in political affairs, yet

he was by no means indifferent to these matters. The town-meeting it was his rule always to attend and there exercise his right as a freeman, that he might show his fellow-citizens the importance he attached to the proper discharge of this right, and that he stood firm on the side of law and order. Although never seeking office, he was called to serve in various capacities in town affairs, and in the performance of his official duties so conducted himself that he came to be recognized and esteemed as a sort of guardian of the town's interests.

Mr. Bennett in his moral and religious views was as firmly fixed as the bedded rock. He was converted in this wilderness, and united with the Congregational Church, December 26, 1781, the day it was organized, and through the long period of his after life never swerved in his loyal attachment to its cardinal principles. In the many disputes and controversies that arose in the church of which he was a member, soon after that church had been established, his inquiry always was, "What saith the Scripture on this point? How is it written there?" Other authority he never quoted or referred to, except it might be on occasion either the "Cambridge platform" or the "Saybrook platform," brief embodiments each of the Orthodox belief, and, in his judgment, of the highest significance and value. The platform, indeed, was, in Mr. Bennett's opinion, the most essential element in the organization of a church, inasmuch as, to his mind, a church without this important element would be much like a bridge without abutments. Therefore when storms threatened the stability of the church, or even in seasons of religious declension, the remedy he usually proposed was a revision of the platform, so that the church, being once sure of its foundation, might then be in condition to rise in its majesty, "shake off the dust, and remove the stumbling-blocks."

"'Squire Bennett," in his general appearance and make-up, including his gait and the very tone of his voice, was wholly unique. He was not a movable in any particular, but a fixture in all things. A certain style of dress or way of life, a special mode of conveyance along the highway, which seemed good to him, he adopted without regard to popular opinion or the ways and methods of other people in the same matters, and once adopted, he adhered to them through life. Yet in all these ways of living and acting there was no affectation of oddity on his part. His

particular style of dress was good for him, but another might not be suited by it, and was free to adopt a different style. When a new church was built in this vicinity he chose a pew by the wall, and had a nail driven in a convenient place over his head where he could hang his hat. How other people disposed of their hats during divine service he did not consider; it was not any concern of his; yet of one thing he was sure: up there; hanging on that nail, *his* hat was in the right place.

Mr. Bennett was twice married. His first wife was Abigail Thomas, whom he married at Middleborough, in 1781. She was the mother of all his children, six in number, namely:—Urania, baptized by Mr. Daman, March 17, 1782; married to Cephas M. Blossom, in the month of May, 1813; died, May 11, 1843. Ebenezer, baptized November 7, 1784; died July 26, 1791. Phœbe, baptized February 3, 1787; married to John Reynolds, of Rutland, by Andrew Smith, November 19, 1806. Ezra, baptized May 30, 1790; lived in Woodstock, and died unmarried, June 3, 1821, at the age of thirty-one years. Sarah, baptized July 20, 1794; married to Berkley Bigelow. Galen, baptized by Mr. Cheever, August 17, 1799; lived in Woodstock, and died unmarried at the age of fifty-seven years. Abigail Bennett, the mother of these children, died December 23, 1812, aged fifty-nine years.

Mr. Bennett married, for his second wife, Mrs. Dinah Richardson, of Barnard, in May, 1813. She was a kind and worthy woman, shared with Mr. Bennett in his charities and hospitalities, and did her part to make his declining years peaceful and pleasant. She died, the 7th day of October, 1842, at the age of eighty years. Jabez Bennett died January 16, 1849, being ninety-four years old.

MOWER'S MILLS.

The year in which the mills were first erected and the dam built at the site of the factory in this village is uncertain. It is generally understood that the idea of establishing mills at this point on the river was conceived directly after Mr. Bennett started his mills at the Flat, which was in the year 1788. About the year 1790 Dr. Stephen Powers built the dam here and set up a saw-mill and grist-mill. He retained the management of the business till 1803, when he sold the mill-privilege, including

five acres of land and the buildings, to Henry Mower & Co. To the other works established here, Henry Mower added a gin-distillery and malt-house, and carried on a large business at the mill-stand till his death, which took place in March, 1808. After his decease the mill property passed into the hands of Samuel Chandler, Mower's partner in business.

Samuel Chandler belonged to a noble and influential family residing formerly in Worcester, Mass. His father was one of the king's judges, but when the trouble broke out between the colonies and the mother country, preferring royalty to democracy, he fled to England, leaving a large landed estate in this country to his children. The sons, of whom there were quite a number, engaged in farming at first, but, not liking the business, they turned their attention to mercantile pursuits. Obtaining the necessary credit, they established themselves in Boston, and imported goods largely on their own account. They also set up branch stores in Chester, Putney, Woodstock, and Royalton. To conduct the branch in Woodstock they secured the services of Benjamin Swan, who came to this town in 1791, and on the 3d of November in that year opened a store in the Richardson house on the west side of the Common, "opposite Richardson's hotel." The business was conducted under the firm name of Swan & Chandlers, Mr. Swan's partners consisting of Charles, Samuel, and Thomas Chandler. A few days after Mr. Swan opened his store the court-house, which stood on the opposite side of the Common, was burnt. The county proceeded the following year to erect a new court-house on the west side of the Common, selecting the site next above Mr. Swan's store. For good and sufficient reasons, therefore, Mr. Swan concluded it the best course to transfer the business to the opposite side of the Common, and occupy the burnt district, where he proceeded to erect a new store and house in one. But first he built at the upper end of the Common a "New Pearl Ash," an indispensable adjunct of a country store in those days. The work was begun in the month of November, 1792, and completed the following summer, at an expense of \$407.08. By the 1st of April, 1793, he began the work on the new store and house, both included under one roof after the fashion of the times, and was ready to occupy his new quarters the following autumn. The 1st of May, 1797, the partnership of Swan & Chandlers was dissolved, but Mr. Swan remained connected with

the business and had the management of it till some time after this date. In February, 1798, one Thomas Voax gave public notice that he had taken the store lately improved by Swan & Chandlers, where he would continue the business of selling goods, but how long this arrangement lasted, or what was its true character, cannot be told.¹

In 1799 Henry Mower came to this town and entered into partnership with Samuel Chandler. The concern did a great business in trade, especially after the purchase of the mill property, entering in the ledger fully fifteen hundred names.² But after remaining in partnership with Chandler several years Mower became dissatisfied, and determined to withdraw, and in the spring of 1807, in company with Levi Mower, opened a new store on the west side of the Common, a few rods above the court-house. This partnership continued ten months, and then was dissolved by the death of Henry Mower, the 14th day of March, 1808. In the few years Mower had lived here, he had gained friends on every side. He was active in business, hearty and cheerful in social life, ambitious to succeed, yet not unmindful of others; public-spirited; and his death was regarded as a great loss to this community. Upon settlement of the business concerns of Mower & Chandler, the estate's interest in the partnership amounted to about seventy-five hundred dollars. To satisfy this claim Chandler made over to the widow the store-stand and the meadows on the South Branch, and for so much of the claim as still remained unpaid gave his note. The rest and residue of the partnership property, including the mills, he took into his own hands. He now became permanently settled in Woodstock. His business connections and complications were immense for the times, extending through this State and reaching into Canada. Among other branches of business he carried on some eighteen or twenty asheries.

About the year 1812, so prolific had been the products of these

¹ Voax's advertisement runs as follows:—

"THOMAS VOAX

RESPECTFULLY informs the Public that he has taken the Store lately improved by Messrs. Swan and Chandler, on Woodstock Green; where he has for sale St. Croix and New England Rum, Brandy, Anniseed, loaf Sugar, Bohea Tea,

press'd Tobacco, ten penny Nails, India Cottons of different widths and prices, with many other articles; which will be sold very low for the pay down in Cash or Wheat."

"N. B. BRANDY by the barrell."

[February 7, 1798]

² John Bement, clerk for Mr. Mower.

asheries that he accumulated at Montreal ashes, or salts, to the value of nearly a hundred thousand dollars. This part of his business was managed by a Mr. Bigelow, who was a shrewd and energetic business man. An offer was now made him to take all the ashes off his hands at two hundred and ten dollars a ton, the highest price ashes ever reached. Bigelow urged accepting the offer; Chandler said, "No; ship them to England;" and accordingly to England they were shipped. But in the passage one of the ships got cast away, and the other was ice-bound, so that it did not reach port under a year. In the mean time the price of the article had gone down, and Bigelow and Chandler went down with it. Mr. Chandler at this time had his counting-room in the store-building on the west side of the Common, put up by Levi Mower in 1807. To be more particular, it stood on the site of the dwelling-house now occupied by Abraham Stearns, and it may be interesting to add, that in 1823 this building was moved further up the Common and converted into a dwelling-house, which in after years was improved by Russell Streeter, and this very season¹ has been additionally improved and enlarged by James H. Murdock.

Mr. Chandler was a bachelor and a gentleman of the old school, who always welcomed his friends with a social glass and the best of havanas. In modern times he would be called a fast liver, yet he never drank to excess, never was known to be "disguised by liquor." His counting-room was a frequent resort of the young men of the village, who were always welcome, and many were the seasons of social enjoyment thus spent by Mr. Chandler among his friends. Frequently the evening hours would be made to reëcho with the laughter of the gay circle gathered there, as the glass passed round, and the session was prolonged till near midnight.

But the end of all these things was approaching. In the summer of 1813 Mr. Chandler found that his health was greatly undermined, and that he must soon finish with this world. One night in the autumn of that year he sent for his friend, Job Lyman, to draw up his will, which having been duly accomplished, he resigned this life the 26th day of October, 1813. He was buried over the river with Masonic honors, in the lot Mr. Lyman sold in later days to W. C. French, being the first person

¹ October 3, 1885.

to receive burial in the new cemetery. After his death the several branch concerns in Vermont still in operation were closed out, and the property standing in his name here and elsewhere was gathered up as well as could be by his executors, and inventoried, showing assets of one kind and another to the amount of sixty-six thousand dollars. But all this large property was swallowed up for the most part in claims against the estate.

Directly after the death of Mr. Chandler, that is to say, November 26, 1813, the executors conveyed the mill property to John C. Bancroft, who retained the title about a year, and then made the concern over to Samuel Ward. Soon after this, Bancroft went to sea in a merchant vessel, and was lost. He was brother to George Bancroft the historian, was a man of brilliant parts, attractive in his manners, and, as some were disposed to say, the most of a man in that branch of the Bancroft family to which he belonged.¹ Samuel Ward's wife was a sister of the Chandlers. Ward himself was a man of gay exterior and expensive habits, and upon becoming proprietor of the mills, took possession of the house just vacated by Gaius Paddock, close by the mills, which, after this time, was attached to the mill property and taken as part of it. Here he set up a splendid establishment and lived in fine style for three years, running the mills as might be. He then, July 3, 1817, sold out to Lyman Mower, and returned to Massachusetts. Mower was, before this, connected with the mills, and was just starting the wool-carding business, as appears by a deed from Ward to Mower, dated May 1, 1817, by which Ward conveyed to him "all that part of the building occupied as a grist-mill, owned by said Ward, between the second story floor and the roof of said building, containing machines for carding and picking wool, &c." After the departure of Ward, the mills were managed by Lyman Mower, either alone or in company with Benjamin F., his brother, for several years. The gin-distillery and malt-house, as such, disappeared, and, in place of this branch of manufacture, the business of wool-carding and cloth-dressing was set up, which was pushed with vigor and steadily enlarged.

¹ NOTICE. If the man who robbed a chaise last Wednesday will return the property.

Pocket-Book and Manuscripts to Mr. Nov. 25, 1814.

Pettes at Windsor or the subscriber at Woodstock, no questions shall be asked (Washingtonian.) JOHN C. BANCROFT.

In 1821 Asa Jones, Jr., came from Massachusetts and took charge of the works for wool-carding, and in connection with the Mowers carried on these and the cloth-dressing works. In the summer of 1824 the company procured new machinery, by which "they could dress cloth better and with greater dispatch and at lower prices than heretofore."

By degrees the Mowers became disconnected from the mills soon after this time, and the factory passed into the possession of Asa Jones. About 1828 Robert Henry had superintendence of the grist and saw-mills, and took in partnership Asa Jones, making extensive repairs and additions to the wheat-mill. In consequence of Mr. Henry's ill health this partnership was dissolved, July 29, 1828, and the mills "known as Mower's Mills" Mr. Jones bought up and took under his special superintendence. Mr. Jones made the remark at the time, that "many people have objected to the mills on account of the number of owners; but in future they will have but one to settle with." February 17, 1829, Asa Jones took P. Jones into company with him in the woolen-factory, and they continued the business till June 1, 1830, when P. Jones, in connection with G. T. Comings, bought out Asa Jones, and went on with the factory. Augustus Jones was carrying on the tannery business at the same time near Jones's Mills.

In 1835 the mill property was sold to the Woodstock Manufacturing Company. This company was incorporated the 6th of November, 1834. In the following year it was authorized by the legislature to hold real and personal estate not exceeding \$100,000. Samuel Ford was the chief manager of the affairs of the company. He represented its prospects in glowing colors, and to such as had subscribed \$500 he showed that it was just as well to make twelve per cent. on \$1,000 as on half that sum. Many were persuaded in this way to double their subscriptions. Quite a number of persons subscribed for the capital stock, which amounted in all to \$24,000; among these were Nathan T. Churchill, Darius Blake, Russell Streeter, George Mellish, John A. Pratt, and so on. The company bought up the old factory and all the mill property, to begin with, then proceeded to build the walls of a splendid brick factory, put up also a large building for a boarding-house, and just above this a blacksmith-shop, and there stopped. Troublous times came on, and during the

year 1837 the manufacturing interest throughout the country became much depressed, gates were shut down everywhere, and the wheels ceased to move. A great many South Sea bubbles, so to speak, burst about this time, among the number the Woodstock Manufacturing Company, which was obliged now to wind up its concerns.

Mr. Blake and Mr. Churchill were directors. They had paid in their shares and advanced money besides, and on the 8th day of January, 1841, all this property, embracing mill-privilege and land on which stood saw-mill, grist-mill, factory, and boarding-house, was mortgaged to these two gentlemen for forty-five hundred dollars.

Meanwhile the saw-mill and grist-mill kept moving a little, but the factory stood still and remained unoccupied for eleven years, except by the silk-worm a short period during *Morus multicaulis* times. But this state of things was not to continue always. After lying idle thus long, the mill-property at last was sold to Solomon Woodward, of Millbury, Mass. Mr. Woodward had been engaged in the woolen manufacture since 1822. When he first went from Keene, where he was born, to Millbury, there were only two woolen-mills of any importance in Massachusetts,—one at Millbury, and one at Slatersville; there was a woolen-mill at Lowell which was worked on a small scale, and about that time another was built at Dudley. Mr. Woodward remained at Millbury about twenty-five years, when, thinking there was a good opening for him at Woodstock, he bargained with the owners of the Ford and Moulton factory for the mill-privilege and site, in the spring of 1847. The family arrived in town the 1st day of June, that year. There was much to do before the mills could work, and no time was to be lost. He had to begin at the bottom, and finish to the top. Besides repairing and fitting up the factory the first season, he built a dye-house and dry-house, two expensive and important works, and put in order the reservoir in Plymouth. A remarkably busy season he found it, and much needed to be done before the works could move; but by the 1st of January, 1848, the factory, after standing so many years a mere shell, was ready to start. As the business of the mills increased, Mr. Woodward extended his improvements, and added to his property in various directions. In 1850 he put up the double tenement next to the bridge, and

about the same time purchased the McGowan property and Knights property, on River Street, on which he made some improvements. In 1854 he put up the double tenement on the same street recently occupied by C. H. Lovell. In 1855 he began repairing his grist-mill, and finished the work upon it in 1856. This was a very serious and painful job, but proved abundantly satisfactory in its results. In 1864 Mr. Woodward bought the widow Day property, including the pine-tree lot and some pasture grounds. The wall along this lot was built the following year, and the beautiful grounds were laid out as they now are between River Street and Mountain Avenue. In 1866 the stone wool-house was built, at a cost of \$7,000 ; also the office was built entirely new, not simply made over. Then, two years later, the barn standing in the rear of the boarding-house was erected, and, in 1870, the building in the rear of this barn, intended for a slaughter-house, etc. The fine mansion on Mountain Avenue was begun in 1851, and completed the following year, or nearly so ; and in 1856 the double tenement was put up that stands on the westerly corner of this avenue. And so, year after year, as the mills continued to work and supplied means to the proprietor, the improvements went on ; new purchases were made, new designs entertained. But in the course of events it came about that the mills ceased to work for the benefit of Mr. Woodward, and passed into the hands of other proprietors ; and with this turn of affairs the improvements ceased also. The soul of the institution had departed. Mr. Woodward had something of the Napoleonic tendency to push forward regardless of expense ; but, in any event, he was there, and so long as he had the management of things the machinery all moved under the impulse of one controlling mind. But, to compare small things with great, now was introduced the era of Aulic councils, when every movement in the factory was regulated by the decrees of a committee of five, residing in distant parts. The consequences were such as one might easily foresee : the factory, under the new order and system, soon dried up and came to an end. On the 27th day of August, A. D. 1877, the gates were finally shut down and the wheel stopped. The old proprietor of the mills, after surviving the loss of his occupation a short time, and entertaining in the mean while the vain hope of seeing the factory start once more, at length found the end of his own long and

active life, dying at his residence in this village, Thursday, the 1st day of May, 1879, at four o'clock in the morning. Of him it can be truly said that every inch of his work was honestly done.

While Henry Mower was running the mills in company with Chandler, the mill-dam was swept away three times, entailing a loss of some two thousand dollars. In the period of Ward's ownership of the privilege there occurred, one season, a January thaw which brought on a freshet. The ice piled up high on the dam and along the pond a considerable distance above; and, in consequence, the water cut a passage round the big rock at the southerly end of the dam, causing some twenty-five or thirty feet to be gullied away in the bank. The proprietor, on seeing this monstrous gash in the bank, and the water pouring through, swore a little at first, and proposed to let the mill go; but on further consideration, changing his mind, turned over to Lyman Mower the job of stopping the break. At that time the south bank of the pond was all covered with spruce and hemlock trees. One of these trees Mower directed to be cut down and dropped into the current, to see what the result would be. It shot through the gap like a pickarel. A spruce tree of considerably larger size he next tried, and, floating it down the current to the gap, watched the issue. After struggling a moment in the waters, the tree stuck. Others were added rapidly, till enough were laid to fill the gap. A stone wall near by was then laid under contribution, and the contents piled on the trees, and gravel added in abundance, till a substantial embankment was completed, and so the gap was stopped; "all done in one day," said the general.

August 17, 1857, the dam gave way in the centre, causing a general stoppage in the mills. Mr. Woodward proceeded at once to rebuild the dam from the foundation, and the work was done in the most thorough and substantial manner, and completed by the following January, when the mills started up once more. The big rock in the dam Mr. Woodward sliced off at the top till he cut it down to a level with the top of the dam, then built around and over it, so that the rock is no longer in sight. The first week in August, 1870, Mr. Woodward spent in repairing the dam, which was found to be needing considerable attention, and since then no trouble has occurred in this part of the works of any serious moment.

CHAPTER XVII.

BANKS.

VERMONT STATE BANK.

WHEN the question concerning the establishment of banks in this State began first to be discussed among the people, there appeared, as might be expected, great diversity of opinion upon the subject. A few among the inhabitants of the State were found to favor the movement, while the greater number decidedly opposed it. Those who favored — or the bankites, as they were called — insisted that the example of the other States authorized the people of Vermont to press this matter in their own behalf, and call for the creation of banks here also. Why deny to Vermont the benefits these institutions afforded to the communities in which they were established? During the years 1803 to 1806 arguments of various kinds in favor of banks were brought forward, and pressed with much earnestness upon the attention of the people.

On the other hand, the anti-bankites averred that all corporations were opposed to republican principles, being the foundations or the relics of monarchy, and none more so than banks and turnpikes; that a moneyed corporation would produce a moneyed influence, and this influence would be exerted in particular to corrupt elections. This much in general might be urged against banks; but in particular they alleged that Vermont had no need of banks, because it was an agricultural, not a commercial State, and banks were the very *kittens* of commerce. What have farmers to do with a bank? Is it not their pride and their boast that none but the idle and dissolute want to borrow? The farmer who borrows, mortgages his farm; then come lawyers and sheriffs; presently his farm is gone, and he himself swears out of gaol. Then consider, further, how corporations are made up, — what sort of material they are composed of. They are made up of men, and, as it is a well-established fact that corporations have no souls, the men who compose them must in due time lose any little moral sense they had to begin with. What security, then, have the public? None whatever;

for they can depend neither on the corporation as a whole nor on the individuals that make up its body. And so the private banks were dispatched with all speed.¹

At the outset of this discussion, the people of Woodstock appear to have been decided anti-bankites. At a town meeting held the first Tuesday of September, 1804, "Voted to Instruct our Representative to use his influence against the Establishment of banks within this State." "Our Representative" for that year happened to be Titus Hutchinson himself. But the same feeling of opposition to banks was quite general throughout the State. During the session of the Legislature in 1806, Mr. Chase, a member of the House, introduced a resolution on the subject of establishing banks, which, on motion, was amended so as to read as follows: —

"Whereas sundry petitions for charters of private banks within this State have been presented to this Assembly, which petitions are now pending, —

"*Therefore, Resolved*, that it is the sense of this House that the establishment of private banks within this State (the State reserving in such bank or banks the right of filling up any number of shares, or at any time of assuming the whole stock) will be useful to the people thereof.

"The question being put on passing the resolution, the yeas and nays were demanded, and were: yeas, 91; nays, 93."

It is quite remarkable that those good citizens of Vermont and their representatives in the General Assembly, who were so much opposed at this time to the establishment of private banks in the community, did not seem to entertain the same antipathy to a State bank. Mr. Hutchinson, a prime mover in the matter, and a sound Democrat, urged that no monarch lurked beneath the folds of such an institution as the one proposed; for it would be in the hands, not of a corporation of soulless individuals, but of the true friends of the people, who, moreover, should the bank be established, would have the means at command to make

¹ About those days bank-bills and brokers were the subject of much speculation and concern among the people of Boston and vicinity. As a means of curing the evils which arose from bank-bills, one man proposed to kill off all the brokers. "Another recommends to us to recommend to the good people of Boston

and the neighboring towns to meet at the new state house, and there in solemn convention to recommend it to his Excellency the Gov. to call a special meeting of the Legislature and pass some effectual laws, which are also recommended as an infallible cure for this paperphobia." (Boston Patriot, Aug. 9, 1809.)

more friends to themselves for the protection of the commonwealth. Then, as a further and most important consideration, the bank, in its operations, would be limited only by *law*. Out of reasons and arguments like these, to adduce no additional motives, grew the Vermont State Bank.

The Legislature of Vermont, at their session held at Middlebury in 1806, on the 10th day of November, passed an act establishing a State bank. It was to consist of two branches: one at Woodstock, the other at Middlebury, and such other branches as the Legislature should from time to time direct and establish. All the stock in said bank and all the profits arising therefrom were to be the property of the State, and be under the sole direction and disposal of the Legislature of the State forever. The Legislature were to choose annually, in joint committee of both branches, thirteen suitable persons to be directors of said bank, — six from the east half of the State for the branch established at Woodstock, and six from the west half for the branch established at Middlebury; the remaining one whence prudence should dictate. They were to be commissioned by the governor, and to have power to elect from their own number a president, who was to sit equally, as one of the directors, in each branch. That the bank might have a specie basis to allow discounts, the directors of either branch were not to put in circulation bills of a greater amount than the actual sum of the deposit of gold, silver, and copper coins in the vault of such branch, until the deposit should amount to \$25,000. Then they might issue bills to the amount of three times the deposit; but the deposit must not at any time exceed \$300,000. The directors were to receive such pay as the Legislature should from time to time provide, and, to make all things sure, were to give bonds to the treasurer of the State in the comfortable sum of \$30,000 each for the faithful performance of the duties of their office.

The following gentlemen were chosen directors of the Vermont State Bank, agreeably to the provisions of the above act, on the same day with the passage of the act: —

FOR MIDDLEBURY BRANCH.

David Robinson,
Horatio Seymour,
John Willard,

Apollos Austin,
Daniel Chipman,
William C. Harrington.

FOR WOODSTOCK BRANCH.

John Mattocks,
Titus Hutchinson,
Elias Lyman,

James Tarbox,
Benjamin Swan,
Alexander Campbell,

Mark Richards.

“The first meeting of the directors for organization and the election of president and cashier for each branch, was held at Middlebury early in December of that year [1806], at which meeting Titus Hutchinson was elected president, Job Lyman cashier Woodstock branch, and Charles Dana clerk, William G. Hooker cashier Middlebury branch. The first bills the bank issued were dated February 25, 1807,¹ and the principal business transacted for many days was signing and preparing bills for circulation. Before any discounting could be done, after the manner of banks with a specie capital, no bills were put in circulation, except in exchange for specie, till we had twenty-five thousand dollars of silver, gold, and copper coin in our vault, as required by the act establishing the bank. It was not long before the requirement of the act was complied with, for many who wanted to borrow, aware of the act, came with bags of specie to exchange for bills, and soon after the same party would present a note for an equal amount, or more, for discount. One company presented ten thousand dollars in gold for exchange, which was soon followed by a note of the same amount for discount. Business at the bank moved easily for many months; very little running on the bank occurred, as a call with bills for specie was styled. It was seldom that any but runners from Boston presented bills of the bank for specie. Most of the specie in circulation was silver; hence our coin deposit was well of the article. At this period banks redeemed their bills at their own counters only, — the practice of redeeming in Boston had not then been established. The brokers, in their business, traded in bills, bought and sold; and when an amount of any country bank was on hand sufficient to pay the expense, they were sent to the bank for specie. All bills had a market price, varying according to distance from Boston, — the greater the distance, the greater the discount. The bills of the Woodstock branch,

¹ Possibly February 23.

and of most of the banks in Maine and New Hampshire, were at one per cent. discount.

“The persons whom the brokers sent to the country banks with their bills for redemption were called runners, and were not usually very pleasantly received, if they came often. These runners were busy, driving fellows, and claimed prompt attention in banking hours. They would expect the gold, or would prefer, if we could accommodate with a draft on some responsible house in Boston. This we could generally do, as we arranged the business of the bank, creating a fund there. When, however, a crabbed, fretful fellow came, and exhibited a disposition to injure us as much as he could, we felt inclined at times to let him know we required civility, or we should play fretful too; and being usually well supplied with silver, it would trouble him greatly to give him silver in redemption of our bills, especially if he had a few thousand dollars, as was commonly the case. The sight of the silver usually brought begging requests not to pay in silver, and promises that in future we should experience kindness. Rather than take the silver, a draft payable in thirty days would be preferred. A compromise was easily made. Very few occurrences of the kind happened, and the concerns of the bank passed smoothly along till the fourth year. The Legislature had established two more branches, — one at Burlington, and one at Westminster. With the additional branches the circulation of Vermont bills was greatly increased, which no doubt increased the business of the brokers and their runners. The different branches were not obliged to redeem each other's bills, but could not refuse taking them on debts, which operated to prevent any one branch making use of the bills of the other branches to replenish their means for redemption. The different branches, in the course of that year, were compelled, having empty vaults, to suspend redeeming their bills. At the close of the fourth year I left the bank, declining another election.¹ The branches did no further business in the banking line, but closed as fast as circumstances would permit, by collecting their debts and redeeming their bills. The Legislature passed an act whereby the State treasurer was authorized to receive the bills in payment of taxes, which brought in the greater part which was in circulation, whereby the public suffered little loss. The treasurer re-

¹ Mr. Lyman was succeeded, as cashier, by Phinehas T. Wales.

ceived, as authorized, about thirty thousand dollars of the bills, which the State redeemed. A bank established as this was was considered at the time an experiment, and the Legislature was not inclined to adopt it in the subsequent incorporation of banks." ¹

It is difficult to conceive at the present time the amount of trouble and confusion that arose in the public mind over the passage of the act establishing a State bank. By some it was characterized as creating a "bank without any funds, and issuing notes for the payment of which no human being, body corporate or politic, is either directly or indirectly accountable;" and it was claimed that no sound reason could be given for such a strange and unprecedented attempt to introduce a new circulating medium, so much worse than the "old paper money," by as much as the government was not pledged to redeem it. "Will any attempt be made to put this nondescript in operation?" it was asked. Suppose the directors do strike off and issue two or three hundred thousand dollars of these notes, payable at Middlebury and Woodstock, is it to be expected that every man who has a dollar in specie in his pocket will be patriotic enough to deposit it in those places, and take in exchange one of these promises to pay with nothing to back them? Still further, is it at all likely that the private banks of New England will give this fungus institution a welcome, feel a common interest in it, and afford to the circulation of its paper that facility which they impart to the notes of one another?

Many of the criticisms and objections that were urged against the State bank had their origin in the fact that its establishment was viewed as a party measure. The principal person to originate the scheme and get its passage through the Legislature was Titus Hutchinson, of this town, then high in favor with the Republican party, both in the State and at the national capital. The Republicans, therefore, were bound to favor the measure, the Federalists, on the other hand, to oppose it, while the novelty of the scheme, it may be added, made all parties look upon the concern with suspicion. Certainly the institution in all its stages fared hardly on every side. Those who criticised it seemed to forget, as its advocates claimed, that the bank was new in kind, and that only a small part of the people in the State who called themselves Federalists was ever heartily in favor of it. More-

¹ Job Lyman, June 11, 1869.

over, the supporters of the bank averred that the moneyed speculators of Boston, who ruled the whole State of Massachusetts, waged uncommon warfare against country banks, and especially against the Vermont State Bank.

Another difficulty in the way of the successful operation of the State bank, somewhat different in kind from any yet hinted at, arose from the ease with which the bills of the bank might be counterfeited. In 1808, a large quantity of such counterfeit notes were set afloat in Canada. They were supposed to emanate chiefly from the prolific press of Stephen Burroughs, then residing in that province, where he carried on a large business in this department of manufacture. His bills came to be known in Canada, and afterwards in Vermont, by the name of "Burroughs' Snags." So plentiful, indeed, did these counterfeits of various descriptions come to be at last, that the people might be excused, if in a spirit of exaggeration they sometimes complained that the bogus notes outnumbered the genuine bills in circulation. Persons in the habit of dealing in this contraband stuff sometimes carried a large amount with them, and were ingenious in their contrivances to hide the same in some spot unlikely to be suspected. A culprit convicted before the supreme court at Danville, in October, 1808, of uttering counterfeit bills, had with him eight hundred dollars of the stuff, found in a phial hermetically sealed, and pegged into the bottom of a wooden bottle which contained rum.

A statement published¹ by authority September 3, 1809, concerning the condition of the bank at that time, makes the following exhibit : —

" Amount of bills issued in the whole	\$760,825.25
Amount of bills redeemed	356,225.75
Amount of bills in circulation	404,599.50
Amount of notes, specie, and other securities . .	427,012.25
Net profit the last year, after deducting all expenses	12,656.00
Making in the whole a net profit of	22,412.75
September 3, 1809.	W. W."

The remarks of Governor Galusha on the State bank, in his speech at the opening of the session of the Legislature for 1809, are worthy of notice. "The failure of several private banks in

¹ In *Vermont Republican*, and *Vermont Journal*, for November 13, 1809.

the vicinity of this State, the rejecting of our bills by the law of one State [Massachusetts] and the policy or caprice of others, has embarrassed our commercial intercourse with the adjoining States. It will be remembered by many that I was not among those who favored the instituting Country banks. But it is apparent that the establishing of a public bank in this State has saved many of our citizens from great losses and probably some from total ruin — for it is obvious, that but for this establishment, in lieu of our own Vermont Bank bills, our citizens would, on the late Bankruptcies, have been possessed of large sums of the depreciated paper of the failing private Banks.

“If the President and Directors of the State Bank have the year past encountered some difficulties occasioned by the intrigues of unprincipled speculators, and the alarm excited by the failure of so many private banks, I think no apprehensions can be justly entertained that any holders of our bills will eventually suffer from an institution which is, and I trust will be, supported by the honor and guaranteed by the wealth of the State. For my own part I consider the holders of our bills as perfectly secure.”

The complaints made from time to time in various quarters concerning the management of the State Bank, called out statements from the president in reply, one of which is given below : —

“TO THE PEOPLE OF VERMONT

“The alarm attempted to be excited with regard to the currency of the bills of the Vt. State Bank renders it expedient that you be made acquainted with those facts which will enable you to judge whether there be any foundation for the alarm. The sum total of the bills in circulation from all the branches has been diminished by redemption and collection 110,423 $\frac{5}{100}$ dollars since the report made to the Legislature last fall. Debts have not been collected as rapidly as could be wished ; still something has been done to remove our present embarrassments. The amount of bills yet unredeemed does not exceed the amount of circulating medium demanded by the business wants of the State. The bills are not as current as they were, owing to the failure of many local banks, which has affected the general confidence in banks and therefore brought about a constant drain upon the specie reserve of the State bank. Add to this the uncommon deficiency of country produce, which leaves the balance of our

trade in favor of the ports. We are not a little surprised that to all our unavoidable embarrassments is added a combination among some of our citizens, many of whom are debtors to the bank, to discredit our bills and obtain them at a discount. More surprising still are the reports in circulation that the Directors have taken the specie from the bank for the purpose of private speculation and that they have made single loans of large sums, even of 40 or 50 thousand dollars to individuals who are wholly unable ever to make remittances. These reports are wholly untrue. The debts due the bank are well secured and they amount to a much greater sum than is necessary to redeem our bills. We hope all our citizens will coöperate with us in sustaining the credit of our bank.

“ STOCKBRIDGE, 25th June, 1810.

“ T. HUTCHINSON, *President* ”
(and eight Directors)

While the directors were thus assembled at Stockbridge at the time they put forth the above manifesto, a vote was passed at one of their sessions, calling upon the cashiers of the several branches for an official statement, showing the condition of the bank up to September 1, 1810. The following is the report from the Westminster branch : —

“ VERMONT STATE BANK AT WESTMINSTER

September 1, 1810

“ Sir, In pursuance of the vote of the Directors of the Vt State Bank of the 27th of June last I give the following Statement —

Amount of Westminster Bills in circulation . . .	\$46,656.50
Amount of Checks outstanding, pay ^{ls} in specie . .	1,688.30
Am ^t of Woodstock Bills in Bank	\$324.75
Am ^t of Burlington — “ — “ — “	248.25
Am ^t of Middlebury “ — “ — “	107.75
	680,75

“ The above is a true statement of the Bank Sep^r 1st 1810.

“ I am very respectfully yrs,

“ LEVI BIGELOW Cash^r

“ TITUS HUTCHINSON ESQ Pres^t of the Vte. S. Bank ” ¹

Upon the several reports thus furnished by the cashiers, some action was taken by the directors for the benefit of the bank with the public, which it is unnecessary to set forth here.

¹ Original *penes nos*.

Three articles appeared in the "Vermont Republican," during the latter part of the summer of 1810, upon the condition of the State bank, supposed by some to be from the pen of the president. The depreciation of the bills of the bank was charged upon a combination of federal lawyers and merchants. Federal merchants, for instance, had borrowed large sums from the bank, had then combined with others to discredit the bills, so that they might buy them up at a large discount, then pay their debts at the bank, and pocket the overplus. Some one writing in the "Washingtonian" for October 1, 1810, denies this, and states that after diligent inquiry he found that at the date of the publication of these charges only one federal merchant was owing the bank a dollar, and he stood in high credit at the bank for his punctuality. The depreciation of the bills of the bank was not owing to any such figment of the imagination as that. It was owing to the simple statement of the condition of the bank as set forth in the reports made to the Legislature in 1808 and 1809. By those reports the monstrous disproportion was clearly seen between the capital of the bank and the amount of its notes in circulation. If, for instance, a bank has at one of its branches one hundred and fifty-one thousand dollars in circulation, and can show only twenty thousand dollars and a little moonshine stored away in its vaults to meet so large an obligation, no wonder its bills fall below par.

Another cause assigned for the depreciation of the bills of the bank was the act of the Legislature in 1807, making the president and directors of the bank liable to be sued for breach of contract; and, if at any time final judgment should be rendered in any such suit against the president and directors, the court rendering the judgment were to draw an order on the treasurer of the State for the amount of such judgment, which order the treasurer was to pay and satisfy.

Still another cause assigned was the conduct of some of the branches in drawing where they had no funds, and suffering their drafts to be protested and advertised in the newspapers, and sold at a great discount on the floor of the Exchange Coffee House in Boston.

At the session of the Legislature for October, 1810, the directors made report of the condition of the State bank, a portion of which is here given: —

"STATE OF WOODSTOCK BRANCH.

Notes due the bank	\$12,209.40	
	(7)	
Notes in suit, judgment and executions	19,134.34	
Bills of other Branches in Bank	7,962.00	
Specie and spare bills in vault	990.00	
Amount of Bank property	\$40,295.74	
	(8)	
Bills issued by said branch	\$28,960.00	
Checks on int. against Bank	3,358.41	
" not on interest	409.36	
Contingent expenses of the year	634.00	33,361.77
Whole profits	\$6,933.97	
	(7)(5)	

The remainder of the bills issued at said branch are all redeemed, and in the vaults."

A similar report was given concerning the other branches, and the aggregate of bills still in circulation was found to be some \$211,831.00.

Submitted 17th October, 1810, and signed "T. Hutchinson, president." The item, "Specie and spare bills in vault, \$990.00," occurring in that part of the report relating to Woodstock Branch, as given above, excited much debate at the time, and one of the newspapers commented on it after the following style: "The precise import of the expression *spare bills*, as used at Woodstock Branch of Vermont Bank, has been the subject of some inquiry. Some suppose it means *Bills to spare*; others, Bills of which the branch is *sparing*. If the former, people say it must refer to *Gloucester* or *Shipton* bills; but if the latter, then undoubtedly it refers to *current money*." The "Shipton bills" were doubtless some of Stephen Burroughs' "Snags," prepared by this skillful operator in "Bills to spare," while located at Shipton, Lower Canada.¹

¹ "VERMONT BANK BILLS FOR SALE. Turned out on Execution in favor of the Vt. State Bank 400 dollars in bills—signed T. Hutchinson, President; part payable at the Westminster Branch, part payable at the Middlebury Branch, and part payable at the Burlington Branch; said bills being refused by the president and directors in payment for an execution in favor of the Woodstock Branch,

and will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder on the 11th day of December next at the dwelling-house of Phineas Dodge in Chelsea, at 2 o'clock P. M. for Woodstock Branch bills or Current money.

"Chelsea Nov. 20 [1810] Benjamin Waterman, Vendue master.

"N. B. 'Spare bills' taken at their real value."

Such being the condition of affairs, and such the state of feeling abroad in relation to the bank, it was judged advisable on all sides to wind up the concern as soon as might be, and consequently at the October session of the Legislature, in 1811, Samuel C. Crafts, Elihu Luce, and Robert Temple were appointed a committee to examine into the situation of the several branches, and remove the Westminster Branch to Woodstock and incorporate it with the Woodstock Branch, which was done the 28th of February, 1812. Before the end of the year, the Burlington branch was removed in like manner to Woodstock, as was also the Middlebury Branch, on the 14th of June, 1813. In meantime, full power was given the directors of the branch at Woodstock to manage the whole thing. On the 16th of November, 1813, it was enacted by the Legislature that three persons be chosen annually by joint ballot of both houses directors of the Vermont State Bank, in place of the old board of thirteen; "this act to continue in force so long as should be necessary in closing the concerns of said bank." Then next, on the 13th of November, 1822, John Jackson was appointed agent to settle the affairs of the concern. The act appointing him continued, with some amendments, in force till October 29, 1829, when it was repealed, and a new act passed appointing George T. Hodges agent to wind up the business. November 8, 1832, the act of 1829 was repealed, and another act passed making provision for the settling the concerns of the Vermont State Bank, it appearing that, under the old arrangement, its concerns did not, or would not, get settled, notwithstanding all this voting and legislating on the subject. After the passage of the last-named act, not much of anything further seems to have been done in the General Assembly relative to this matter.

In conclusion, Mr. Job Lyman's opinion on the subject, as briefly expressed in a letter dated August 18, 1869, may be safely accepted by all: "The reason the bank failed to accomplish the ends for which it was designed, in my opinion, was, it had no foundation (capital), which occasioned other difficulties, all of which brought it to an end. Capital is as necessary in a bank as air to sustain life."

The place of business for Woodstock Branch was first in the store of Allen & Dana. "This store was of two stories, a wooden building, now a part of the Tracy Block, so called. There was

only one front door, of good size. Across the southerly end were two rooms, designed, one as a counting-room, the other, back of it, as a sleeping-room. There was a chimney between the rooms, with fireplace for each, and door leading from one to the other. The store-room embraced the other part of the first story, with stairway to chamber and cellar. The cellar was under the whole building, and a vault was built therein, under the back small room, for the bank, with a trap-door into it; the small room being prepared for the bank, with counter and drawers. The way into the bank was from the store, through the counting-room." ¹ In 1810 the bank was removed to the three-story brick building, then just erected, next above Allen & Dana's store, which continued the place of business till the bank was closed.

THE BANK OF WOODSTOCK.

On the 9th day of November, 1831, an act of the Legislature of this State was passed, incorporating the Bank of Woodstock, with a capital stock of one hundred thousand dollars, to be divided into two thousand shares of fifty dollars each. By the provisions of the act, the charter was to continue in force till the 1st of January, 1847. The books for receiving subscriptions were to be opened at Woodstock ninety days after the passage of said act, under the direction of Job Lyman, Charles Dana, Isaiah Raymond, William Steele, and Ephraim D. Briggs, commissioners appointed for that purpose. Subscribers to the stock were to deposit with the commissioners five dollars on each share subscribed for, in gold or silver coin. As soon as might be after the capital stock had all been taken, five directors were to be elected for managing the affairs of the bank, with this proviso, however, that directors were not to be appointed nor any operations at the bank commenced, till fifty per centum of the stock had been deposited with the commissioners. In case of the other banks previously incorporated by the Legislature, the directors made assessments; but in case of this bank they could not be elected till the said fifty per centum had been paid in. Accordingly the books for subscription to the capital stock of the Bank of Woodstock were opened at R. Barker's hotel, Wednesday, the 8th day of February, 1832. Great was the excitement on

¹ Letter from Job Lyman, May 20, 1869.

"Change" over this most interesting event, — an excitement, indeed, that the present generation can scarcely credit, much less understand. Applicants for the stock became "as thick as blackberries;" specie poured into the metropolis in torrents, and it was jeeringly remarked that almost every man to be seen in the streets was heavily freighted with American half-dollars. What was quite noticeable, also, was the fact that honest farmers and mechanics, who heretofore had been talking so loudly about "hard times," nothing going on and nothing bringing a fair price anywhere, and no money to be had in consequence, all on account of the "accursed tariff" and "enormous taxation," these very men were now seen pushing forward to subscribe for stock in this new bank, with plenty of the "ready rhino" to plank down for shares.

The subscription books were closed Friday evening, the 17th day of the month, after having been open ten days. The amount of stock subscribed was seven thousand nine hundred and eighty-eight shares, about four times the amount of capital authorized by the charter, and easily might the amount have been raised to ten thousand shares. Some dissatisfaction was expressed towards the managers, as was to be expected, because of the alleged unequal distribution of the stock, and fears were expressed by some lest the bank should go into the hands of the cashier of the old Vermont State Bank, "meal-bags and all."

A meeting of the stockholders of the bank was next held at R. Barker's hotel on the 5th of April, pursuant to legal notice. Hon. Elihu Luce was appointed chairman, Wyllys Lyman, Esq., secretary. A committee was appointed to determine how many votes each stockholder was entitled to, and examine the proxies, and determine who was entitled to vote by proxy at the meeting. The committee consisted of Job Lyman, Lyman Mower, John Pettes, Joseph B. Danforth, and Daniel Bowen. On the question before this committee a most animated discussion arose, in which Mr. Charles Marsh took an active part, especially on the particular point which related to the voting by proxy. The meeting then adjourned to seven o'clock in the evening.

At the adjourned meeting the committee made their report, which, after some amendment, was accepted. Tellers were then appointed to count the votes for directors, and the voting having been completed, it was found that Lyman Mower, Charles Dana,

George W. Rice, Simon Warren, and John Pettes had received the highest number of votes; whereupon these gentlemen were declared duly elected directors of said bank for the year ensuing.

This important step having been taken, the directors proceeded, on the 12th day of the same month, to elect a president and cashier for the bank. Over the election of a president there was no particular feeling or dispute, as it appears, but the choice of cashier created much excitement outside of the board, and on this question parties were found to be hopelessly divided. However, like most questions of this kind, whether on a small or large scale, a compromise was at length effected; the board proceeded to the election of a president and cashier, and the ballots having been taken, Lyman Mower was elected president, and Lyndon A. Marsh cashier of said bank for the ensuing and current year. At a subsequent meeting of the board, held on the 30th day of the above-named month, it was voted to adopt a code of by-laws, consisting of thirteen articles; also that the office of the bank, for discount, deposit, and the transaction of business should be for the present kept in the rooms heretofore occupied by the Vermont State Bank; also that the salary of the cashier for the current year should be five hundred dollars. This sum was afterwards increased to eight hundred dollars.¹

At a full meeting of the board of directors, the 19th day of February, 1833, Messrs. Mower, Warren, and Rice were appointed a committee to purchase a lot, and build a banking-house for the accommodation and business of the bank. At this same meeting it was voted to pay the president one dollar for every one hundred half-sheets of bills signed by him; and it was further ordered that the directors should be entitled to receive, for their services the coming year, one dollar for each day they attended as directors; and to this was to be added, to those who resided out of town, their expenses.

The affairs of the bank went on smoothly for some years, and considering the novelty of the experiment and the many lessons then still to be learned all through the country with regard to

¹ The first loan made by this bank was to Rufus Colton, the sureties on his note being Lyndon A. Marsh and Benjamin Swan, Jr. Some disappointment was felt that the avails of said loan were not applied towards the liquidation of certain debts due from the borrower, but went in another direction.

the proper manner of conducting banking operations, no serious complaints could be urged against the general management of the Bank of Woodstock. The hallucination, indeed, over the affair which took possession of men's minds at the outset had passed away, and those who were expecting to get rich by subscribing for a few shares in the capital stock of this bank had found their disappointment. The removal of such mistaken notions, however, was no injury to the institution itself, and the bank was fast becoming an established fact, with increasing prospect, as it continued to operate, that in the end it would prove a great benefit to the business of this valley. But troublesome times were coming on. The United States Bank, with its Nicholas Biddle, General Jackson had disposed of to his own satisfaction, at least; and the general's all-sufficient substitute in place of this, of "State institutions" for banking purposes, had been widely adopted. Then followed that period in the nation's history, to all appearance so auspicious, that the general was led to say, at the close of his second term, "I leave this great country prosperous and happy;" a period during which the aggregate issues of the banks throughout the land rose in a few years from sixty-six millions to about one hundred and fifty millions of mere paper dollars. To this volume of currency issued by regular banks might be added the numberless varieties of "shin-plasters," which, from different sources, found their way into the business world, not to forget that other delectable species of circulating medium known in those days as the bills of "wild-cat banks." The result of this flood of irredeemable paper over the land was the great revulsion of 1837 in the financial world, which caused such widespread distress and ruin.¹ Owing to the doubt and uncertainty attending all banking institutions at this crisis of affairs, some confusion arose in the public mind over the condition and prospects of the Bank of Woodstock. A serious interruption had occurred in the concerns of the bank, causing great inconvenience to the business part of the community. So great was the anxiety felt among all classes, owing to this turn of affairs, that a meeting was called in this village on Saturday, July 28, 1838, by several respectable citizens of the vicinity, to consider the subject of the bank, and take such steps in the matter

¹ "The Revolution of 1776 tried men's purses." (Toast at Fourth of July celebration; the revolution of 1837 tries men's souls; the revolution of 1837 tries men's bration in this village.)

as might seem best. The meeting was fully attended, and after it was organized and its object stated, the directors, in reply, gave a detailed exposé of the situation of the bank and the measures which had been adopted for the common safety, with assurances that an arrangement had been made with the Suffolk Bank by which the bills of the Bank of Woodstock were now rendered current in Boston. An arrangement of this character was all that was required by those calling the meeting; yet, as no official notice had been received that the contemplated arrangement was perfected, it was thought best to adjourn proceedings two weeks, with the understanding that if the bills of the bank were made current within that time there would be no further business before the meeting.

After this date the affairs of the bank moved on without further obstruction from the public, and very little of interest occurred in its subsequent history.

At a meeting of the directors in the month of January, 1839, an exhibit of the situation of the bank having been made by the cashier, thereupon a dividend of one dollar on a share of the capital stock of the bank was declared, — apparently the first instance of the kind since it was established.

Tuesday, January 13, 1846, the directors held a meeting at their banking-house. At this meeting it was voted to accept the proposition made by Ammi Willard and Philo Hatch, in behalf of the directors of the Woodstock Bank, to purchase the banking-house, which was, that they would give twenty-three hundred and seventy-five dollars for the banking-house and furniture, take possession, and pay the money the 1st day of January, 1847, and allow the Bank of Woodstock a privilege in the banking-house to settle up their affairs and close up the concerns of the corporation.

Presidents of the Bank of Woodstock.

Lyman Mower, from April 12, 1832, to January 10, 1837;
Chester Baxter, from January 10, 1837, to January 14, 1840;
Simon Warren,¹ from January 14, 1840, to January 18, 1841;

¹ Mr. Warren was president during the time of the Harrison campaign. One of the stock items during that campaign, over which a large amount of declamation was spent by the opposing

hosts, was that of "bank aristocrats." The following, from the *Mercury* newspaper of May 29, 1840, may help to illustrate:—

"THE BANK ARISTOCRATS. This is

Job Lyman, from January 18, 1841, to the close of the concerns of the corporation.

Cashiers.

Lyndon A. Marsh, from April 12, 1832, to September 10, 1838; Job Lyman, from September 10, 1838, to January 8, 1839; James H. Williams, from January 8, 1839, to August 17, 1841; Eliakim Johnson, from August 17, 1841, to the close of the concerns of the corporation.

On the 26th day of October, 1844, an act was passed by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, to incorporate the Windsor County Bank, which was to continue and have succession until the 1st day of January, 1864, and to be established at Woodstock, in the County of Windsor.

The capital stock of said bank was to be sixty thousand dollars, to be divided into two thousand shares of thirty dollars each.

The books for receiving subscriptions to the capital stock of said bank were to be opened at Woodstock within one year from the passing of the act, under the direction of Norman Williams, Chester Baxter, John Porter, Andrew Tracy, and O. P. Chandler, or a majority of them, who were appointed commissioners for that purpose. The corporation was to take no benefit by this act, and the same was to be void, unless said bank should commence business agreeably to the provisions of the same, on or before the 1st day of May, 1847, and not till after the 1st day of January, 1847. On the 22d day of October, 1845, the act incorporating the Windsor County Bank as above was so amended by the General Assembly that said corporation hereafter should be known and called by the name of *Woodstock Bank*. The Woodstock Bank went into operation in January, 1847. Oliver P. Chandler was chosen president of the institution, and Eliakim Johnson cashier; and these two gentlemen retained their re-

a term unsparingly used in the vocabulary of the party which claims all the democracy;—the party which eschews ruffle-shirt gentry and dandies that walk with canes. How remarkably does the appellation fit the directors of the Bank of Woodstock! What a set of ruffle-shirt aristocrats they are, and the president, what a tremendous aristocrat he is. Did ye ever notice his equipage when he rides

out? Anybody might know he was a bank aristocrat."

This ludicrous reference to the president and his equipage provoked so much laughter among the people at large, who were well acquainted with that excellent man's general appearance and style of living, that even Eastman's self-assurance was overcome by the retort, and for once he was ready to confess himself beat.

spective offices of trust in the bank through the entire period of its existence. When the charter expired it was decided not to have it renewed, but, in place of the old bank, a new institution was organized April 17, 1865, under the title of "The Woodstock National Bank." Mr. Chandler continued to act as president of this new bank till January 12, 1869, when he was succeeded by Mr. Frederick Billings. In like manner, Mr. Johnson was retained as cashier till his decease in 1872. The following are the present officers of the bank:—

Frederick Billings, *President*.
 Oliver P. Chandler, *Vice-President*.
 Henry C. Johnson, *Cashier*.
 Frederick W. Wilder, *Teller*.
 Charles F. Chapman, *Clerk*.

OTTAUQUECHEE SAVINGS BANK.

On the 13th day of November, 1847, it was enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, that Norman Williams, Ammi Willard, Owen Taft, Lyndon A. Marsh, Eliakim Johnson, Nahum Haskell, Joel Eaton, Thomas Russell, Henry W. English, Thomas E. Powers, John Porter, Charles W. Warren, and Charles S. Raymond, their associates and successors, be constituted a body politic and corporate by the name of the Ottauquechee Savings Bank; the institution to be located at Woodstock, and the members of the corporation not to exceed thirty in number.

Norman Williams was authorized to call the first meeting of the corporation, notice of which having been given according to the requirements of the statute, the corporation was organized December 21, 1847, and the following persons were elected officers of the institution: John Porter, president; Ammi Willard, vice-president; Eliakim Johnson, treasurer; Norman Williams, secretary.

The following persons were elected trustees, namely: Thomas E. Powers, Thomas Russell, Owen Taft, Joel Eaton, Lyndon A. Marsh, Henry W. English, Charles S. Raymond, Nahum Haskell, Charles W. Warren, Oel Billings, Reuben Daniels, and Otis Chamberlin.¹

¹ It is a singular fact that of all the persons above named, original members of the corporation, only the venerable president is surviving at this date, July 9, 1886.

The first deposit in the bank was made the 15th day of March, 1848, by Eliakim Johnson, trustee. The following is a list of the officers of the institution from the beginning, with their several terms of office: —

Presidents.

John Porter December 21, 1847.
 Nathan T. Churchill January 6, 1858.
 James B. Jones January 6, 1875.

Vice-Presidents.

Ammi Willard December 21, 1847.
 Gardner Winslow January 4, 1854.
 Nathan T. Churchill January 7, 1857.
 Joel Eaton January 6, 1858.
 Charles S. Raymond January 6, 1875.
 Crosby Miller January 2, 1884.

Treasurers.

Eliakim Johnson December 21, 1847.
 Resigned January 11, 1848, and
 Job Lyman was elected; then
 Eliakim Johnson January 1, 1851.
 Henry C. Johnson January 6, 1858.
 James B. Jones January 4, 1860.
 Sylvester E. Munger January 7, 1863.
 George R. Chapman¹ March 13, 1873.

Secretaries.

Norman Williams December 21, 1847.
 Oel Billings January 7, 1852.
 Norman Paul December 9, 1871.
 Luther O. Greene January 6, 1875.

From and after the 1st of January, 1879, the treasurer, under the provision of the statute, became *ex officio* clerk.

¹ Mr. George R. Chapman died April 24, 1888, and on May 1, 1888, Charles F. Chapman was elected Treasurer to fill the vacancy.

CHAPTER XVIII.

RESIDENT PHYSICIANS.

IN connection with the notice of the Vermont Medical College, sketches have been given already of three resident physicians of the town. To these are added sketches of several others in the present chapter. Still other resident physicians, not named here, yet well deserving mention in a history of the town, are necessarily passed by for the present.

DOCTOR STEPHEN POWERS.

Thomas and Walter Power, two brothers, were born in Waterford, Ireland. They came to this country somewhere near the year 1680. They married two women named Benney, supposed to be of East India extraction. In Ireland the name of the family was Power, but these two men, on coming to this country, added an *s* to their name, making it Powers. For two generations after the Powers brothers settled in this country, little or nothing is known of the history of the family. Benjamin Powers, of Old Hardwick, Mass., was a farmer. He had a large family of children, and among the number was Stephen Powers, who was born in 1735. Stephen, after he became old enough to think for himself, resolved to take up a different pursuit in life from his father's, and therefore asked to be permitted to study medicine. The father consented, and Stephen set to work resolutely to learn his profession. There were few facilities in those days for the study of medicine, as compared with the present day; but Stephen was diligent and faithful, and took eager advantage of what means fell in his way to fit him for his profession. Among the chief of these was the privilege, whenever he could secure it, of riding with old practitioners when on their visits to the sick. After he had finished his studies, he went to Middleborough, Mass., and there began the practice of medicine. After having become fairly established in business,

he married Lydia Drew, of Halifax, Mass., daughter of John and Sarah Drew, born in the same year with himself.

He had been following his profession a few years, when men's mouths became full of talk about a new State, a little way in the northwest, which presented a grand opening to men of enterprise and spirit. Dr. Powers determined to see this new State for himself, and if half was true that was told of the lands there, he thought it might prove a good country for him to settle in. He mounted his horse, therefore, and started for the new country. His course took him directly to Woodstock, where the lands had not yet been taken up to any extent. This was in the year 1772, in which year is dated his first purchase of land in this town. It consisted of a tract of ninety acres, lying between Quechee River and "Mount Tom," so called. He said, in making the trade, he would take all on the mountain side worth having. He added to this purchase other tracts of land, so as to make the whole amount to some three hundred acres. Having completed his stay in the country, and done all that was advisable for the present, he returned to Middleborough. In 1774 he moved his family, consisting of wife and five children, up into the wilderness.

The names of these children were, first, Susanna, born December 14, 1760, the most beautiful of the family, bright and intelligent; of great assistance to her father; could mix and prepare medicines as well as he, and even administer them; was cut off early in life, dying of a fever, December 2, 1777; second, Mary, born March 2, 1766; then Stephen, born August 6, 1767, married Sally Perry; John Drew, born November 17, 1769; Lydia, born March 15, 1772. There was another member of the doctor's family who deserves particular mention. This was a negro slave, whom he brought with him, named Christopher Molbone, or Melbone, but commonly known as Cato Boston, for whom he paid twenty pounds, *old tenor*, equivalent to about one hundred dollars. Cato was purchased in Old Middleborough, just before the family moved from there to Woodstock, and was then about ten years old. He grew up with the children in the family, was always full of mischievous pranks, and for exhibitions of lying and idleness was not excelled by the best specimens of the Carolina negro. He did service after a fashion in Dr. Powers's family for many years, and when the War of 1812 broke out, en-

listing in the service, he went away from Woodstock, and was never heard of afterwards.

Prior to moving up into the new country, Dr. Powers engaged to have a log house built, to be ready for him when the family arrived at Woodstock; but as this was not the case, he put up, for temporary accommodations, "a shanty with crotches set up and poles in and a bark covering,"¹ where the family remained till the house was ready to receive them. This house was located on or near the site of Lewis Pratt's house, on the Common. Moses Carpenter took up a farm back on the hill, on which Joel Burbank afterwards lived. The Indian trail ran up and down the river. Often would Mrs. Powers, when the doctor was absent for a day or two, take her children and go up to Mr. Carpenter's, through fear of the Indians; first hiding her household valuables among the logs in the woods, and there stay till the doctor returned. This log house served the family five years. But Mrs. Powers's health was not very good, and she thought if she could get away from the low ground on the river, and live on the hill, she would be better. The doctor therefore built the house where Harvey Lockwood afterwards lived, and moved his family into it. This house was raised the 5th of September, 1778. After occupying it a few years, he gave it up to his son Stephen, and built a house on River Street, just a little back from Mr. Boyce's house, and dug the well on the grounds which is still in use. In this house Dr. Powers was living at the time of his death, November 27, 1809. Lydia, his wife, survived him nearly fourteen years, and died, August 29, 1823, at the house of her son, John D. Powers, aged eighty-eight. The battle of Bunker Hill was fought June 17, 1775. Dr. John D. Powers, then a lad six years old, always asserted that he heard here in Woodstock the roaring of the cannon at this battle. Dr. Stephen Powers, who was aware of the military movements going on, went down country a short time before the battle took place, and was present on the battlefield while the engagement was going on, and assisted in dressing the wounds of such as had been hurt.

Mr. James Slayton used to relate that, when he was a boy and his parents lived in West Windsor, he had a fever-sore on his leg, and Dr. Powers was sent for. There being no roads at the

¹ Titus Hutchinson.



time where the doctor was to go, he must needs take his line of direction by marked trees ; and, as the snow was four or five feet deep, he could travel in no way except on snow-shoes. There was, indeed, plenty of practice for the doctor, and besides that, plenty of work for him, outside of his profession, of the hardest kind, and to be performed amidst the various difficulties that beset life in a new and wild country. This, however, only made it the more agreeable business to him.

Dr. Powers was in height about six feet, of good proportions, black eyes and hair, and of dark complexion; frame active and vigorous, and capable of enduring great fatigue. For dress or personal adornment he did not care much. Among his articles of apparel he had a pair of trowsers, — or, more properly, breeches, — made of buckskin, which he wore right along, down even to the close of his life. From the nature of the material, he made handy use of this garment in sharpening his surgical instruments when he would perform an operation, ~~or at~~ at other times ; so that, for this and other reasons, the breeches, in the end, came to be quite soiled.

In politics the doctor was always a stanch Whig ; everywhere, at all times, and at all hazards stoutly maintaining the cause of his country. In his special calling as a practitioner of the healing art, his name was widely known, and his reputation stood high, even among the learned in his own profession. A physician once went to Dr. Nathan Smith, of Hanover, then at the head of the Dartmouth Medical School, and stated some case he had in charge, which he did not very well know how to treat. He remarked that he had followed such and such treatment in the case. “By what authority?” asked Dr. Smith. “By the authority of Dr. Stephen Powers,” was the answer ; to which Dr. Smith said, the authority was good enough.

About the year 1792, — certainly not in that year, — Captain Richardson and Dr. Powers started for Ohio together, to look over that part of the State called New Connecticut. They made their explorations and then returned home, fully persuaded that some day they should go out there to live. This, indeed, never came to pass for either of them, and would have been any but a wise course at their time of life. Captain Richardson died in 1799, but in 1805 Dr. Powers seems to have fully made up his mind to go out to Ohio and take up a new farm. To this end,

he furnished his two sons, Stephen and John, with horses and money, and started them for the West, to look up some good lands. The young men were gone several months, looked the country over thoroughly, placed their horses on board a boat, and sailed down the Ohio a piece, and, having made as complete an examination as the case, in their judgment, required, returned to Vermont. On reaching home, the doctor asked them what success, and how they liked. The young men answered, "We think we can do as well to stay here, if not better." "I am disappointed," said the doctor, "for I expected you would like, and we should all be going out there together." The sons, therefore, both stayed in Woodstock; John, the younger, never leaving the place, but Stephen going out to Cincinnati to live, some years after.

Dr. Stephen Powers left two daughters, Lydia and Molly. Lydia married Dr. Robert Paddock as his second wife, and moved to Barre. She had four daughters: Mary, Abbie, Lydia, and Susan. She died, April 23, 1815, at the age of forty-three years. Three of her daughters, namely, Mary, Abbie, and Lydia, married Congregational ministers. The fourth, Susan, married a farmer, and went to Michigan. Molly, Dr. Powers's second daughter, was married to Jason Richardson, and had by him five sons, namely, Noah F., John Drew, John Powers, Origen D., and Israel P., and two daughters, namely, Susan and Lydia. After the death of her first husband, in 1805, she was married, a second time, to Oliver Williams.

Stephen Powers, Jr., had a family of nine children, namely: Jason R., Benjamin Franklin, Philander, William P., Stephen, Sarah L., Susan, Hiram, and J. Sampson, all born in the old house on the hill, which was built by Dr. Stephen Powers, in 1778. The father of these children, through going security for unreliable parties, lost not only the homestead farm, but almost everything else he had in the world; and, collecting what he was able to save from the wreck of his property, resolved to move westward with his family, all of whom were now (1817) grown, with the exception of Hiram and J. Sampson; also, Susan, who died in Woodstock in the year 1810.

Jason R., the oldest son, emigrated to the "Holland Purchase," in the western part of New York, in 1814, where he bought a farm, upon which he remained until the year 1845, when he

removed to the neighborhood of Cincinnati, and died there in 1849 of cholera, at the age of sixty-three years. Benjamin and Philander left Woodstock for the West in the spring of 1816, Benjamin locating in Cincinnati, where he edited one of the pioneer newspapers of the city, and practiced law some years; finally removed to Troy, Ohio, where he remained until his death in 1860, at the age of seventy-two. Philander proceeded farther West the same year, 1816, to Missouri Territory, where he was joined three years later by his brother William. They settled in Monroe County, where they died within a few weeks of each other in the year 1834.

Leaving Vermont in 1817, the family spent the winter with Jason in the Holland Purchase. In the spring of 1818, a few days before the family were expecting to resume their journey westward, Stephen cut his foot badly, and was obliged to be left behind, and his mother remained with him. The father, taking the other three children, Sarah, Hiram, and J. Sampson, pushed forward for Cincinnati, the place where the family expected to stop, reaching that city the 5th day of May. The mother and Stephen did not join the family there until the following October. In the interval Stephen Powers, the father, had died on the 29th day of August. He had always been a remarkably healthy, athletic man, never knowing sickness, till the one overtook him which occasioned his death. His wife survived him six years, and died on the 17th day of March, 1824.

The children, Stephen, Sarah, Hiram, and J. Sampson, remained in Cincinnati. Stephen became a bookkeeper for John Groesbeck, with whom he was afterwards associated in the pork business, in which he continued until a stroke of paralysis obliged him to lead a quiet life. Finally he removed from Cincinnati to Dayton, where he died in 1854. Sarah married, in 1822, William R. Morris, who became a wealthy lawyer. She died in 1861, at their country seat near Carthage, Ohio. J. Sampson remained in or near Cincinnati, and was still living in the fall of 1873, being then the only survivor of the nine children comprising his father's family.

The brother Stephen rented Colonel Isaac Bates's farm — a piece of land northwest of the city — in November, 1818, where Hiram Powers stayed with the family till 1820, when a protracted spell of fever and ague induced him to go into the city,

if by any means, to use his own language, he might "shake off the shakes." His brother Benjamin's connection with the most prominent newspaper in the city secured for him an easy situation with Colonel Andrew Mack, who had assumed the proprietorship of the Cincinnati Hotel, located on the northwest corner of Broadway and Front streets. This, at the time, was the most aristocratic hotel of the city, and, in addition to the public bar, kept a reading-room, in which Hiram found employment. "Truth obliges me to deny the statements so frequently seen in print of Hiram's having been obliged to 'struggle for existence' in the strenuous manner the penny-a-liners have repeated. I do not remember the time when we two boys, then 15 and 14 years of age (all the others grown up), were not well fed, clothed, and amply provided for in every particular. His *great struggle* occurred when upon dissolving his connexion with D'Orfeuille he was unable to obtain the means he had left accruing in that person's hands, and was obliged to apply to strangers for the funds with which to go to Italy."¹ Hiram remained in this reading-room until almost seventeen, when he left for the produce store of a Mr. Keating, on Main, south of Columbia Street. Here he stayed till the proprietor died or failed in 1823, when Luman Watson, a clock manufacturer, employed him as collector. He traveled through Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana, till the winter season rendered the roads impassable, when Mr. Watson told him to go into the factory to see what he could do there, if anything, till spring would allow him to resume his collecting tour. Into the factory Hiram went, and there he stayed; for, much to the surprise of every one in the shop, he began to make clocks, not only after the styles they had there, but with improvements, as though this trade were one in which he had received thorough instruction. There came next a second opportunity for Hiram to exercise his rare mechanical genius. An organ had been ordered by D'Orfeuille for the Lower Museum, of which this Frenchman was proprietor, the Upper Museum being carried on by a man named Letton. This organ was a reed instrument, and was to play tunes when turned with a crank. The head workman undertook the job, but when it came to fixing the reeds and turning the crank for some music, "the tunes would n't grind worth a rush." Such a failure was likely to imperil the

¹ Letter from J. Sampson Powers, September 27.

reputation of the establishment, and the master was in despair, but at this point Hiram came forward, and taking the job in hand, finished up the organ, so that it proved an entire success. Letton, the proprietor or manager of the rival museum, was not to be beaten by an organ that could only grind out tunes to crank-pressure, and ordered one which should run by internal machinery, be wound up like a clock, and play many tunes, and have besides some automaton figures. Watson was doubtful; Hiram insisted he "could make the thing go; knew he could," and the organ was undertaken. It was decided that the figures should represent six boys and as many girls, arranged in graduated sizes on each side of the organ. At certain parts of the tunes there was to come in a ringing of bells by the girls, followed by a blowing of trumpets on the part of the boys. As Letton wished the figures to look handsome, Hiram proposed to fit them out with waxen heads and hands, done in the best style. He went to Professor Locke, who gave him the proper proportions for the composition of the wax, and, having provided himself with the proper material, copied from living children the waxen faces and hands required for the figures on this organ. The affair, when completed, proved a great success. Such a piece of mechanism had never been seen west of the Alleghanies, and people flocked from far and near to see it. Among the number was D'Orfeuille, who witnessed with chagrin the completeness of the instrument, and remarked to Nathan Guilford, who had induced him to come and take a view of it, "Why, those heads must have been brought from Europe; nobody in America could make them!" Guilford replied, "They were made by a boy, sir; a boy in this town, sir, working in Luman Watson's clock-factory." "What's his name, Guilford?" "Hiram Powers," was the answer. "Let's go and see him," responded D'Orfeuille; "I don't believe, yet, those hands were made here." "Nonsense," said Guilford; "Watson's is only a few doors from my office, and I have often watched him at work."

This led to Hiram's acquaintance with D'Orfeuille, though he did not leave Watson's for the museum till nearly three years after this time. D'Orfeuille came to Cincinnati about 1823, perhaps before that, but Hiram did not go into the museum till 1829. About the year 1827 he became acquainted with an elderly Prussian by the name of Eckstein, who taught him to

model, and, what was more important, how to make the moulds with which to take casts from his models after their completion. D'Orfeuille would occasionally give Hiram an order to execute; but in the year 1828, having had a group in wax "knocked into pi" by careless transportation, in his distress he called upon Hiram to see if damages might be repaired. Viewing the remains, which consisted of a decapitated John Quincy Adams, a noseless Charlotte Corday, and the ruins of other personages of note, whose mutilated effigies were mingled in a very promiscuous manner, Hiram concluded the best thing he could do would be to make something new out of the fragments. "So after due deliberation something startling was agreed upon, and taking the head of Lorenzo Dow (then an eccentric, celebrated Methodist divine) I determined to *convert him* into the King of the Cannibal Islands; — D'Orfeuille meantime to make his body, 'a fit body to fit head.' Returning home with Dow's head, I thrust my hand into the hollow, bulged out the lanky cheeks, put two alligator's tusks into the place of the eye teeth and soon finished my part of the work. A day or two afterwards I was horrified on beholding large placards on the city walls announcing the arrival of a great curiosity, the actual embalmed body of a South Sea man eater, secured at immense expense! et cetera. I told D'Orfeuille his audience would certainly tear down his museum, when they came to know how badly they were sold, and resolved myself not to go near the building: but to my astonishment the figure drew immensely, and this led to my being duly installed as inventor, wax-figure maker and general mechanical contriver for the establishment."¹

Hiram was nearly twenty-five years old when he beheld for the first time in his life a bust in marble, Canova's Washington, which was on exhibition in Cincinnati for a few days. He gazed in perfect silence upon it for a long time, and then exclaimed, "That is what I shall do." How well he carried out this saying the cultivated world bears witness. D'Orfeuille sometimes closed his entertainments by lectures on natural history. Hiram executed so perfect a figure, the size of life, representing that gentleman standing with a frog in his hand, with uplifted finger as though about to illustrate his topic, that visitors who were acquainted with him would frequently greet it with, "Good day, Mr. D'Orfeuille."

¹ Hiram Powers.

As might be expected, Hiram was subjected to adverse criticism sometimes. How he silenced one of his critics the following incident will show. This was S., who had made disparaging remarks upon the waxen D'Orfeuille, and Hiram thought it fair to try his hand at paying him back. A favorite comedian of the day, named Henderson, had achieved great popularity in the character of "Manworm." Hiram informed S. he was at work on a wax figure representing the comedian in this character, and when it was completed, he wished to submit it to his judgment before placing it on public exhibition. This compliment to his critical taste pleased Mr. S. highly, and when informed that the figure was ready and awaited his criticism, in company with D'Orfeuille and one other person he climbed the ladder to the museum loft, where Hiram executed all the wonderful contrivances which made the institution so popular, and found the figure poised in the attitude which the actor assumed when pronouncing the words, "If you don't repent," etc. After surveying the figure a moment, said S., "This is very like, certainly; very like, indeed, — does you credit, Powers. But," resumed S., after pausing a moment and examining a little further, "I'm sorry to say you've failed in the eyebrows; not drawn down enough," at the same time turning towards Hiram. "Look again," said Hiram. "Why, really," said S., "it is astonishing how this thing improves on inspection," and seizing the solitary candle, held it so the blaze came just under the tip of the statue's nose, when to his horror the nose elevated itself in the air, and from the supposed statue burst the exclamation, "Devil, S., — don't burn my nose!" The unlucky critic dropped the candle and disappeared down the ladder as fast as possible, amidst a chorus of laughter from those left behind, and was never heard afterwards criticising "Powers's errors."

On the 1st of May, 1832, Powers was married to Miss Lizzie Gibson, daughter of James Gibson, of Cincinnati. He remained with D'Orfeuille until 1835, when, despairing of ever being paid by that person what he owed him, he determined to go to Washington, where he spent two winters, and modeled the busts of President Jackson and many other prominent men of the day. Though his skill as an artist gained him many warm friends and many patrons, yet he never would have been able to realize the cherished wish of his heart — a residence in Italy — had it not

been for the assistance of Nicholas Longworth, of Cincinnati, and William C. Preston, of South Carolina. Availing himself of their timely aid, he left Cincinnati August 29, 1837, for a life-long sojourn in Italy.¹

DOCTOR JOHN D. POWERS.

Dr. John D. Powers married, for his first wife, Sally, daughter of Sylvanus Raymond, by whom he had four sons, namely: Caspar, died aged two years; Volney, died aged ten years. Volney and his mother both died in 1811, of the spotted fever. John Drew, born January 6, 1806; Thomas E., born November 14, 1808. To speak more fully of the father, Dr. John D. Powers was born November 17, 1769, in Middleborough, Mass. He came with the rest of the family to Woodstock, when they first moved hither, in 1774. He therefore received only such training and education as could be obtained in this wilderness during the first years of its settlement. While his brother Stephen chose to be a farmer, he concluded to follow his father's profession, and began the study of medicine under the father's care, rode with him, and thus soon picked up ample information in the various branches of the healing art to qualify him for a practicing physician. We find him established in his profession as early as 1793, for it is preserved in memory that he visited patients during the course of that year, and was present at the bedside of Mrs. Marsh, first wife of Hon. Charles Marsh, in her last sickness and at her death, in June of that year. Somewhere about the beginning of the century, the doctor got possession of the house at the head of the Park, in which he lived to the end. The doctor, like his father, always rode horseback to visit his patients. He began this way of traveling when no other mode was known or practicable, and he kept it up after time and the growth of the country had wrought various changes in the ways of doing business, and the old methods had gone out of credit. Consequently, while his brother physicians traveled about in the chaise or elegant buggy, more commonly still in the comfortable little gig, Dr. Powers plodded along on horseback, with his saddlebags behind, rejoicing over the discipline of early life that had

¹ The facts given in the above sketch (now October, 1886). In the notice of the family of Stephen Powers, Jr., are Hiram Powers I have preferred to limit taken from a letter I received from J. myself to the matter furnished in this Sampson Powers some twelve years ago letter concerning that distinguished man.



kept him thus far, and ever should keep him, from falling into the effeminate ease of modern times. It is pleasant to recall his figure as he jogged on over the road while visiting his patients: a man of middling size, but compact frame; complexion light, like his mother's, and lips firmly compressed; the reins held in the left hand, and sometimes a willow switch resting carelessly on the right shoulder; and so the doctor acted his part. During the last few years of his life he mostly gave up practicing medicine. Some time after the death of his first wife, he married a second time, choosing a Mrs. Houghton, a widow with three daughters, then living in Barre, whose maiden name was Abigail Robinson, and she was from Shrewsbury. Her three daughters were taken into the doctor's family, and lived with him till they were married. The eldest, Augusta, was married to David Bronson; Louisa was married to Benjamin F. Kendall; and Abigail to Solon Danforth, of Barnard. Dr. Powers had, by his second wife, three children: Mary and Susan and Calvin Robinson. Mary died when she was about twenty-two years old; Calvin Robinson, in 1877; Susan is still living. Dr. Powers himself, the father, died in 1855.

DOCTOR THOMAS E. POWERS.

Thomas E. Powers, subject of this sketch, and the son of Dr. John D. Powers, was born in this village, November 14, 1808. His early education he obtained chiefly in the district school of the village, but in addition to the time thus spent in the common school, he was sent for a short while to the academy in Royalton. It being decided at length that he should follow his father's profession, he entered the Dartmouth Medical School, and having remained the due length of time, graduated in 1827. He then went into his father's office to further pursue his studies, and soon after, as partner with him, he began the practice of his profession. After a few years, however, he went to Hartland to live, but remained there only about one year, and then came back to his native town once more, where he continued to reside up to the close of life.

The practice of medicine was not agreeable to Dr. Powers, and he gradually withdrew from it, till, in the latter part of his life, he had given it up altogether. Other fields of activity suited his temperament better. The stirring scenes of public life he pre-

ferred to the quiet of the sick-room, and in preference to the management of difficult cases of disease, sought rather the management of public affairs, for the successful conduct of which he in due time proved himself qualified in a high degree. In the year 1850 he was elected representative from this town to Montpelier, and received a reëlection for the two following years, and again in 1855 and 1856. Upon becoming a member of the House, he was elected speaker, and justified the choice of his supporters by proving himself one of the best presiding officers the House ever had. During this time also, and indeed for many years previous, he gave all his energies to the cause of temperance in this State; and, in connection therewith, in 1852, he took in hand the editorial management of the "Vermont Standard." In the year 1857 he was appointed by the governor to superintend the rebuilding of the State House at Montpelier. The manner in which he discharged this important trust is shown so minutely and fully in the record as to supersede the necessity of dwelling further on that point here. In 1862 he was appointed by the United States government assessor for the second district of Vermont, and remained in this office nine years, this being the last public trust of any kind which he held. Dr. Powers died in this village, December 27, 1876.

Endowed by nature with great abilities that fully made up for any lack of education, Dr. Powers possessed an intellectual force that must needs be felt wherever he moved, and in whatever department of life he saw fit to exert himself. Few men have ever lived in this State so influential as he in the popular assembly. Here, indeed, was the field in which he most delighted to display his varied energies, and he did not find many among his associates and rivals who cared much to meet him there. Fertile in expedients, swift to see the best point of attack, self-reliant, with physical strength to back up all the forces of his mind, it is no wonder he was so formidable in debate and held such sway over the popular mind. Yet this resolute will, and the lavish exercise of it in all the transactions of life, wrought one unfavorable result for Dr. Powers that may be named here. It caused the rough features of the man to appear too constantly before his fellow-citizens. It was sometimes whispered, indeed, that within this harsh outside was hidden, after all, a kindly heart; that many were the charities done in secret, which, if

known and related, would reveal susceptibilities for good which the doer of them was not credited with possessing.

BENJAMIN PERKINS, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.

All the information thus far obtained concerning Dr. Benjamin Perkins is contained in the following notice, taken from the number of Spooner's "Vermont Journal," issued November 20, 1786: —

"Benjamin Perkins, Physician and Surgeon, Most respectfully informs the public that after a regular course of study in the various branches of the science of physic, and receiving proper recommendations from the faculty, he has been in the practice for five years past in Connecticut. Favorable opinion of the Constitution and the privileges of the State of Vermont has inclined him to become an inhabitant of the same, and proffers his best services to the public.

"Said Perkins is now living at the house of Mr. Benjamin Russ in Woodstock.

"Nov. 14, 1786."

DOCTOR LYSANDER RICHARDSON.

Lysander Richardson, son of Captain Israel Richardson, was born in New Salem, Hampshire County, Mass., on the 30th of March, 1763. At the age of fourteen he enlisted as waiter to his father, who was in service in the Revolutionary army. When Burgoyne invaded the States from Canada, in 1777, both father and son were summoned to the field; but the captain being sick, Lysander had to go without him. He joined another lad named Joseph French, and the two took their knapsacks on their backs, shouldered their muskets, and marched alone from New Salem to Stillwater, — a good long road for boys of their age to travel. They stayed till Burgoyne had surrendered and the campaign was over, and then returned home.

In the year 1781 Captain Richardson came and settled in Woodstock, bringing all his family with him. On looking round to see what was best to be done, the family concluded that Lysander should study medicine. Dr. Stephen Powers was the physician of the town at this time, and looked upon the neighborhood as his own, and was extremely jealous of any one who might think of intruding on his domain. Still, he would take

Lysander as a pupil on one condition, namely : that after he had obtained his license as a physician he should not practice within ten miles of the doctor's house. When, therefore, he had finished his studies and become a doctor, Lysander remembered his bond, and did not practice in Woodstock, though wishing it very much, but went to Barnard and set up in business there. Possibly he was the first physician to settle in that town, but others can tell better whether this be so or not. It must have been about the year 1786 when he went to Barnard. Of course he put up at the tavern of Benjamin Stebbins, and soon made the acquaintance of Silas Tupper and Aaron Barlow, at that time selectmen and men of influence in the town; and the fact of his being the son of the wealthiest man in Woodstock was no bar to his preferment in the minds of the good people among whom he had come to live.

How he prospered in business at Barnard is not known; but he did not remain a great while in that town, returning after a time to Woodstock, where he was married to Miss Lois Ransom, on the 8th of May, 1787. Soon after his marriage he went to live on Hartland hill, occupying the farm which originally belonged to the Hurlbuts, and overlooked Beaver meadow. Here was a fine situation and a good farm, which the captain bought of Josiah Hurlbut.

In 1789 Captain Richardson bought a farm of thirty-seven acres, situated at the easterly end of the modern Pleasant Street. On this farm Dr. Richardson settled and remained till 1793, when he leased the place to Jacob Wilder, and moved to Pittsford, to enter once more upon the practice of his profession. He stayed in Pittsford one year, and then returned to Woodstock again. It is reckoned by some that here Dr. Richardson made a mistake; not so much, perhaps, in leaving Pittsford, as in coming back to Woodstock. He should have thrown himself on his own resources and stuck to his profession, wherein he was capable enough of getting a living. But whatever faults can be charged upon Captain Richardson, his father, lack of parental affection was not one of them. The captain, moreover, possessed ample means himself, and liked to have his sons near him, — not altogether to their advantage, perhaps.

The doctor being settled once more on his farm, nothing occurred henceforth very eventful in his life, except that he was

pestered with lawsuits. These in various ways proved matter of serious import to the doctor, especially on one occasion, when he was imprisoned in the new jail because he had been good-natured enough to lend himself as bail for a friend. While thus shut up he was frequently visited by his family; and his son Chauncey, then about five years old, vividly recalls his youthful sensations when once his father drew him through the port-hole of the prison door into the cell where he was confined. In May, 1800, Dr. Richardson moved, with his family, to the farm near South Woodstock, owned and occupied in after years by his son Chauncey, where he spent the remainder of his days, dying the 3d of April, 1813, aged fifty years. His wife died at Riga, N. Y., October 18, 1847, aged eighty-two years.

NOTE. — Dr. Richardson's library of medical works consisted of at least one book, embracing "Lectures on the Materia Medica, as delivered in 1761, by William Cullen, M. D., Professor of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh." It was published at Philadelphia, in 1775; is a portly quarto, printed in large, handsome type, and still in fine preservation. On the fly-leaf is written: "Lysander Richardson, his *Materia Medica* Bought in the Year 1786." Lysander disposed of it, the following year, to Dr. Stephen Powers, from whom it descended to his son, Dr. John D. It is still quite an interesting book to read.

DOCTOR STANDISH DAY.

Standish Day was born in Connecticut, in the year 1765. His father was Benjamin Day, who lived first in Colchester, then in Hebron, Conn., and removed from the latter place to Royalton, Vt., in the year 1774, and died there in 1811, at the age of seventy-nine.

Standish Day accompanied the family in the removal from Hebron to Royalton. Nothing is known of his early life and education, except that he first studied medicine with Dr. Parkhurst, of Lebanon, and afterwards finished his studies, it is supposed, in Hanover, possibly under the care of the celebrated Dr. Nathan Smith. He first married Priscilla Pierce, sister to Dr. Parkhurst's wife, but she died in a short time after the marriage. In 1788 he was found employed in some way in the service of Windsor County, and, as hard money was not to be had in those days, nor bank-bills either, he received his pay in an order on the

county treasurer, issued in accordance with an act passed by the Assembly of the State, October, 1787. This order was used as circulating medium fourteen years, and finally lodged in the hands of Benjamin Swan. It reads as follows: —

"No. 219.

WINDSOR COUNTY, Dec. 23, 1788.

"The County of Windsor acknowledge themselves indebted to Mr. Standish Day in the Sum of Twenty Shillings lawful Money, which I promise in Behalf of said County to pay the said Standish Day or Possessor on demand.

"By order of the County Court.

"GEO. HOUGH, *County Treasurer.*"

This order is further indorsed thus: —

"MARCH TERM, 1802.

"The Clerk agreeable to Custom,—is directed to Draw A new order for the Amt. of the within order.

"JESSE WILLIAMS, *Assistant Judge.*"

And so, in old times, currency like this served its turn as well as greenbacks do to-day, so long as it was not necessary to redeem it.

On the 15th day of May, 1791, Dr. Day bought of Dr. Stephen Powers a piece of land on what is now River Street, embracing one acre, and here built him a house the same season. The next year he married Deborah Sturtevant, and as the date of the marriage has been given incorrectly in two publications, a copy of the certificate is here added, taken from the original entry, in the handwriting of Jesse Safford, who tied the knot: —

"1792, *July* 15th then joined in Maraige Doct. Standish Day and Deberough Sturtevant boath of Woodstock.

"Pr me JESSE SAFFORD, *Justice of Peace.*"

This Deborah Sturtevant was the daughter of Dr. Josiah Sturtevant, of Halifax, Mass. Her mother's name was Lois. At the breaking out of the Revolutionary War, Dr. Sturtevant did not take sides with the colonies, but remained loyal to the king, and therefore the Whigs of the neighborhood determined to mob him. Some of his friends informed him what was going on, and advised him, if he wished to escape tar and feathers, to withdraw

under cover of night. Accepting the advice, he packed his saddle-bags with medicines, made ready his horse, and then secreted it, equipped with the saddle-bags, in a grove back of the house. To this spot he withdrew at nightfall, and mounting his horse started for Boston. But he was observed, and shots were fired after him, causing the horse to start suddenly forward and the saddle-bags to fall off behind. He reached Boston in safety, but was there taken sick and died three weeks after having fled from his home. His death was recorded thus by his widow : —

“*August 18, 1775. My dear husband departed this life in the 55th year of his age at Boston, where he was drove by a mad and deluded mob for no other reason than his loyalty to his Sovereign. God forgive them and grant that his death may be sanctified to me and the children for our Souls everlasting good.*

“*LOIS STURTEVANT, Halifax, Mass.*”

The saddle-bags above mentioned were picked up by a neighbor, who carried them to the widow, and demanded a dollar in payment, which was granted. It so happened that some years afterwards this same man settled in Woodstock. Meanwhile Deborah Sturtevant made a visit to Woodstock, also, to see her sister, Mrs. Nathan Perkins, and here becoming acquainted with Doctor Day was in due time married to him. Not long after the marriage our neighbor of saddle-bag memory called one morning on Dr. Day to settle an account. By a singular chance he was led all unconsciously to relate the story of his winning the dollar so easily from a tory's widow in Halifax. The doctor heard the story through, then quietly took the man's bill, and charged the dollar in the account.

Being married and comfortably settled, Doctor Day applied himself to business, and proved faithful in his profession. He succeeded in gaining a fair share of practice, though the neighborhood was then well supplied with physicians. There was Dr. Stephen Powers, together with his son John D. Powers. Then Dr. Lysander Richardson practiced some. Dr. Shadrach Darbe lived in one of the small houses on the west side of the Common. In the south part lived Dr. Stephen Drew. But, working among them all, Doctor Day succeeded in establishing himself in a good business, and was on the way to thrive and

prosper, when he was taken sick in the summer of 1799. After an illness of several weeks, he died on the 19th of August. He was buried in the cemetery on the hill that overlooks the Flats, and the following is his epitaph : —

“ A thousand miles by night and day
I've travelled weary on my way
To heal the sick ; but now I'm gone
A journey never to return.”

Doctor Day had five daughters, of whom one only, Polly, still survives ; married to Luther Cross, and now residing in Montpelier.¹ In 1864 the house lot on River Street, with its queer-looking house, an ancient landmark, passed into the hands of Solomon Woodward, and soon after the old house was torn down. But the pine-tree still remains. Fast Day, the 10th of April, 1822, early in the morning, Polly Day was wandering through the swamp behind Mrs. Richardson's house, and near the foot of Mount Tom. There she found a pine-tree, which was but a little plant standing on a stone, and the roots spread over the top and down the sides of the stone into the ground. She begged the plant of the owner of the land, and with the help of her brother Barnes she set it out, that morning, on the spot where it now stands. People told her she could not make a pine-tree live there ; but she persevered, and one day, during the dry part of the summer that followed, with her own hands she brought fourteen pailfuls of water up the high bank of the river and poured round the roots. Thus the tree lived.

DR. JOHN BURNELL.

John Burnell, M. D., was born at Chesterfield, Mass., October 13, 1778. No account has been obtained concerning the first settlement of the Burnell family in this country. The earliest among the ancestors of Doctor John Burnell, of whom we have any record, bore the name of John, which has been handed down in the family ever since. Nor has it been ascertained when this John was born or when married. His wife was Mehitable Edmonds, born in the year 1695, whose lineal ancestors were of the little band that landed on Plymouth Rock seventy-five years before. He died in 1744, leaving a son Joseph, then nineteen years of age, who married in time one Hannah Tucker, born in

¹ November 30, 1871.

1726. The children of this couple were five in number, the oldest of whom was John Burnell. His wife's name was Mary Bannister, born October, 1751. He resided in Chesterfield; was a farmer in very moderate circumstances, but of highly respectable character. His family consisted of eight children, of whom Doctor John Burnell was the fourth.

The boyhood of John Burnell was spent on his father's farm, in the hard work that commonly fell to the lot of farmer's boys in those days. But, as he was naturally of a somewhat indolent disposition, he began early in life to form plans for acquiring an education as a means of supporting himself, believing that for the purpose of gaining a livelihood he should find intellectual pursuits more congenial than bodily exercise. He was free, also, to confess that in addition to this he had an ambition to attain that higher sphere of life in which, as it appeared to him, they moved, who, in the common language of the day, "lived without work." He had an idea that if he could qualify himself for a schoolmaster and be employed as such, he should be happy, and indeed, as he once related, "I felt not a little proud at the beginning of my school keeping to be called Master Burnell, like Doct^r Opdike Underhill in the *Algerine Captive*, who, when he was anticipating the future honors of keeping school, would place himself by the forest and cry, 'Master Underhill,' and listen to the echo among the trees, to see how pleasing such a title would sound." In pursuance of this idea, when about eighteen years old he began teaching school in his native town, and elsewhere in the vicinity, as a chance might offer, or the best place be secured. He seems to have been quite popular and successful as an instructor of youth. Nor was he wholly lacking, in the mean time, in studious habits, or in the desire to make large gains in knowledge; yet, as he would sometimes regretfully say in after-life, too much time was spent in the trivial pursuit after pleasure, too much attention given to acquiring the art of shining in society.

In 1805 he went to Northampton, and began the study of medicine with Dr. Henry Frink, at the same time taking charge of the high school in that village, in the conduct of which he gave great satisfaction, and won the esteem and friendship of many. Northampton was then not less a place of great attractions to young people like Burnell than it is at the present day, and it is true he did not turn away altogether from the charms

of its society ; but after a brief experience he found, on reflection, that, with his narrow means, indulgence in these things was not helpful to his present circumstances, nor likely to favor his prospects in the future. At the end of his career in Northampton, he found that upon applying all his income for keeping school, and selling horse and saddle, to pay current expenses, he was still a hundred dollars in debt; besides his tuition, with about forty dollars in his pocket, retained to meet the emergencies of the hour.

His studies with Dr. Frink being at length finished, he went with a fellow-student to Middletown, Conn., to obtain a license to practice from the Connecticut Medical Society. Before the committee of examination he read and defended a dissertation on "Animal Heat," and received at the close of the examination the desired license, signed by Dr. John R. Watrous, president of the society. In 1808, it being the same year he obtained his license, he came to Woodstock and settled in this village as resident physician, boarding at first in the family of Dr. Joseph A. Gallup.

For a time after Dr. Burnell's first establishment in Woodstock, his prospects were somewhat clouded, and his trials not a few, though the discipline he thus received did him no harm. He came to this town under the patronage and upon the invitation of Dr. Gallup, and it was generally understood that he was to take the doctor's business from his hands, who at that time was largely engaged in mercantile pursuits, and possibly thought it might be a good arrangement to commit to some younger physician a portion of his medical practice. But while some disappointment and trouble awaited Dr. Burnell in this direction, his merits, though unobtrusive, were soon recognized in the community, and brought him friends ; and this gave him sufficient business to make him contented to remain here. In truth, the occasion was near at hand when he would be called upon to put forth, in the exercise of his profession, all the skill and all the energies he possessed.

In the month of January, 1811, the spotted fever broke out in this village. While that fearful epidemic was extending its ravages throughout the State and in other parts of New England, it is remarkable how many and how conflicting were the opinions expressed by eminent physicians concerning the real character

of the disease and the best method of treating it. However, though the doctors disagreed, the suffering community judged and acted in the matter as men are apt to in such cases, esteeming him as the wisest and best physician who was the most successful in treating the patients entrusted to his care. Dr. Burnell was then too young in the profession to have any written opinion of his on this subject carry much weight, and if he had any theories concerning the fever, kept them mostly to himself; but the cases committed to his charge were numerous and managed with great success, whereby his reputation was increased and his practice much extended. Some two years later, when the epidemical lung fever visited this community, his business so increased that he could not attend to it all in person; and thereafter, till into the decline of life, his practice continued very large.

That he might improve himself in his profession, Dr. Burnell attended the course of medical lectures in the institution connected with Dartmouth College for the years 1821 and 1822, receiving, at the end of the second course, the regular degree of M. D. In 1835 he was honored with the degree of Doctor of Medicine from Castleton Medical College. Nor should his connection with the medical societies of Windsor County and of this State be passed over. Dr. Burnell always felt the greatest interest in the advancement of medical science as opposed to quackery and empiricism, and for promoting that object he regarded these associations as of the highest value. While yet young in practice, he united with a few others of like circumstances and feelings with himself, for the purpose of forming an association for mutual improvement in the profession. After many difficulties they succeeded, with the assistance of older practitioners, in obtaining an act of incorporation for the Windsor County Medical Society. This society went into operation in January, 1813, soon grew in numbers, and has been actively sustained down to the present day. Dr. Burnell never lost his interest in it, and from its beginning till the time of his decease he most of the time filled some office in the society. After the establishment of the Vermont Medical Society he gave this institution, in like manner, his warmest sympathy and encouragement; but after a series of years it became well-nigh extinct, and for a time was no longer an acting society. In the year

1841, chiefly through his agency and the efforts of one or two other physicians in the same neighborhood, it was revived, and for the two succeeding years he was elected president of the same; nor has the society gone back since that time, but is still flourishing and doing an active work.

Dr. Burnell had a truly scientific mind. His perceptions were clear, his faculties ingenious in their working, while all this varied activity of the mind was regulated by a sound judgment. He attached such value to theories as he thought they deserved, which was usually not much; yet he did not disregard them wholly. In medical science the field of speculation seemed to have for him no great charms; he preferred to travel along the line of well-established fact, where he could see his way clearly, rather than commit himself to untried courses, and trust to the last chance of coming out right in the end. He never wrote much, which may have been one reason why he speculated so little; and as oratory was not his forte, he might not have attained much success in lecturing on medical themes, had he felt any ambition to try this department of the profession. Yet he never lost his zeal and relish for study; and great as had been the progress, during his own life, in medical science, he still kept abreast of the profession, even after he had mostly given up active work, making it his aim to be familiar with the changes going on and the discoveries made or claimed to be made in the theory and practice of medicine.¹

The place where Dr. Burnell appeared to the best advantage, and was best known, was in the sick-room. Standing by the patient's bedside, he was in his proper element, his bearing being always pleasant on such occasions, so as to render his presence welcome to patients of all ages and descriptions, not excepting the children whose ailments he might be called to look after. Sometimes he did not see through a case so quickly as another might; he saw incorrectly sometimes; yet his conclusion, formed from a careful study of the symptoms exhibited by the patient, was apt to be as sound and just as the case permitted. His own cheerful disposition was a great help to him in his practice, as it was a comfort likewise to the sick. Many a weary moment has he enlivened for his patients by the recital of some curious

¹ The same was Dr. Benjamin R. Palmer's opinion, as expressed about the year 1845.

incident in his own experience, or some amusing anecdote, connected, oftentimes, with the particular remedy he was applying in the case before him. His information, indeed, was not confined to matters belonging to his profession, but embraced ample stores outside of that, — treasures of various kinds, which he had the rare faculty of bringing forth in a manner agreeable even to the sensitive nerves of the sick.

In June, 1816, Dr. Burnell was married to Ann Collins, oldest daughter of Charles Marsh, Esq., of Woodstock. By her he had one child, Mary Leonard, born April 21, 1820, died August, 1841. She was a young lady of many personal graces and of very attractive manners, and her death was much lamented by all who knew her. A few years after this sad event, Dr. Burnell himself was taken with his last sickness, which proved very painful and protracted, yet he bore it all with exemplary fortitude, and finally died Sabbath morning, June 20, 1847, having sustained to the end the character of a scientific physician, an upright man, and a consistent Christian. Mrs. Burnell, the widow, removed about the year 1854 to Angelica, New York, where she died, the 25th day of August, 1855.

DOCTOR STEPHEN DREW.

Very little material is at hand for a sketch of Doctor Drew. He was born in Scituate, R. I., April 23, 1766; came to Woodstock in 1786, and very soon after coming to the town must have begun the study of medicine under Doctor Stephen Powers. Perhaps he entered upon his studies about the same time with Lysander Richardson; but whether he was subjected to the same limitations and conditions in the matter as were imposed on Lysander, is not related. It is not understood that he received any medical instruction beyond what he obtained from Doctor Powers, and after getting his license he settled down to practice in South Woodstock, being located not quite six miles from the house where Doctor Powers lived. He must have become established as a physician about the year 1790; and it is reasonable to infer that he soon enjoyed a fair amount of business, as we find him by the years 1792, 1793, buying lands in the south part, and soon after that getting married and building houses. He continued the leading physician in South Woodstock for many years, and kept a good practice till near the close of his life.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on him by the Vermont Medical College, at the anniversary exercises of that institution in June, 1842.

Doctor Drew, through all his long career as an active business man, sustained most agreeable relations with a wide circle of acquaintances, and deservedly enjoyed the confidence of all who knew him. He is described by those who had familiar friendship with him, and could best appreciate his true character, as having been a man of unquestioned integrity and sound moral principles, of frank and unassuming deportment, and as possessing a kind and benevolent heart. The genuineness of the esteem in which he was held by the community was shown by the deference and respect exhibited towards him through his years of health and usefulness, and the kind offices which his neighbors with anxious and loving care rendered to him in his last sickness, and by the general sorrow which his death occasioned.

Doctor Drew was married March 15, 1795, to Miss Elizabeth Williams, daughter of Captain Phineas Williams, of Woodstock. He died November 6, 1842. His wife survived him twenty-two years, and died the 27th day of November, 1864. Their children were Eliza A., born February 2, 1796, died March 10, 1842; Oliver W., born January 11, 1798; Henry C., born February 24, 1800; married Mrs. Frances Snow, occupied the old homestead, and died September 18, 1871; had one son, who studied medicine, was married, settled in Connecticut, and died there soon after his marriage; Susan D., born March 9, 1802; Abigail S., born March 20, 1804; Mary Ann W., born November 2, 1807.

CHAPTER XIX.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

THE beginnings of the Baptist Church in Woodstock are involved in much obscurity. It is thought by some that a church of this order was first organized in the North Parish in July, 1780, with Elisha Ransom as the first minister. In September of the same year ¹ this church joined the Warren (R. I.) Baptist Association, reporting twenty-eight members. In February, 1783, the Woodstock Baptist Association was formed at Woodstock by the union of the Woodstock and three other Baptist churches. A second church was formed from the first about 1785 in the south part of the town, which, however, was not long after reunited to the mother church. Mr. Joel Butler was ordained at Woodstock January 5, 1785, and ministered to the Second Church a while ² (about two years).

About the beginning of the year 1782, Thomas Baldwin, then of Canaan, N. H., held a "wonderful meeting in the west part of this town. Elder Jedediah Hibbard preached about the same time; also, that same season, a Baptist exhorter named Snow preached and labored in the same neighborhood."³ Such information as we have concerning the condition and progress of this church for the first few years is meagre and uncertain. Prominent among its members were Stephen Delano, Ichabod Churchill, Benjamin Burtch, and James Washburn, who were all members at first of the Congregational Church in the North Parish, and went over to the Baptists in 1782. A few years later Joseph Churchill and wife went over in the same way. In the spring of 1785 there was a revival of religion in the south part of the town, which embraced several young people,⁴ and at this time the Second Baptist Church may have been organized, as suggested above. It numbered among its members Abraham Kendall,

¹ Some authorities put this date in 1781.

² Wm. H. Rugg.

³ Abner Jones.

⁴ *Life of Elias Smith*, page 70.

Daniel Ralph, Jabez Cottle, Stephen Smith (father of Elias), and many others. Its pastors were Joel Butler, named above, and Elder Elisha Ransom. It is generally understood that Elisha Ransom acted as pastor of the church in the North Parish for the first few years after it was organized, though there is some obscurity on this point. But as early as 1788 the church was under the pastoral care of Elder William Grow. He came from Abington, Conn.; in early life possessed a pleasing address, persuasive manner, and "a melodious and commanding voice." His style of preaching must have been rather taking with the people. The church at this time grew in numbers and influence, and must have counted its eighty or hundred members. There being no regular place of worship established, meetings were held at dwelling-houses, most frequently at the house of Joseph Churchill.

About the year 1789, a committee was appointed for the purpose of providing ways and means to erect a meeting-house. A site was selected on the farm of Joseph Churchill, which overlooked Quechee Valley, and here a building was raised in September, 1789, on premises conveyed to the proprietors several years later by Mr. Churchill.¹ For some time not much was done to the house beyond shingling and boarding it up. In the meantime a society was organized, called the United Baptist Society, in Woodstock and Bridgewater. The following is copied from a stray leaf, still in existence, of the records of this society:—

"These are to notify & warn the proprietors and society Interested in the Baptist Meeting-house to meet at the house of Joseph Churchill in Woodstock on the 21st day of January Instant ten o'clock A. M. to settle with their Committee agree upon & adopt such further measures for Continuing the Building of the Meeting-house as they shall then Judge most proper

"WOODSTOCK *Jany* 7th 1793

"J. DUNHAM	} Committee
E. PALMER	
N. RUSS	

"Jany 21st, A. D. 1793 the Society met at Time & place agreeable to the above warning—proceeded to Business as follows.

¹ See his deed, *penes nos*.

and bloody persecutions in states and kingdoms as all Europe can testify. And altho we mean to pay all due respect to the memory of our pious ancestors, who first emigrated from Europe to enjoy the benefits of gospel freedom ; yet it must be confessed that they brought from that land of tyranny a tincture of religious oppression, which quickly spread thro' church and state, to the great detriment of religion itself, as well as very injurious to those who suffered thereby both in their persons and estates. But we aim not at persons, but facts, believing harsh judging and censuring to be condemned by the peaceable, passive spirit of the gospel ; yet may we say without wrong to particular persons that we believe the confining the ministry of the gospel to a class of men who must of necessity be educated in some seminary of learning, and consequently cramped down by certain rules, notes, forms, &c., and their receiving approbation, licence and ordination from none but their own brethren, has a direct tendency to corrupt the simplicity of the gospel, and deprive the people of their inherent right of judging of the qualifications of their teachers, and to impose such teachers on towns and parishes is a flagrant breach of justice and equality.

“ While we disclaim an ignorant, unlettered illiterate ministry, it is our opinion, that when persons of sober lives and good morals are called into the work of the ministry by the agency of the Divine Spirit, having a competent share of human learning, they may be profitable ministers in Christ's vineyard, though unacquainted with the dead languages.

“ And whereas since the independency of America religious tyranny has, in some measure, been stript of its mask, and the painted visage of priestcraft rent and shattered, so that men no longer pin their faith on their teacher's sleeve, but have assumed their native and long-lost right of judging for themselves.

“ Therefore, We the *United Baptist Society*, being guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Vermont, and being fully convinced that religious and social worship ought to be kept up and maintained in towns and societies, for the mutual edification of Christians, and to propagate and increase the knowledge of the gospel among men in general, and also in a special manner to inculcate and diffuse among our children and youth the wholesome precepts of christianity, which are so essential to the forming their morals for civil life, as well as their future well-being in the coming world.

“ We do hereby deliberately, mutually, and cordially submit ourselves to the following articles of agreement, hereafter named, viz. : —

“ 1. The Society to be known and denominated the UNITED BAPTIST SOCIETY in Woodstock and Bridgewater.

“ 2. The Society to conform themselves in acts of outward worship to the known rules regulations and institutions of the Baptist profession.

“ 3. The Society pledge themselves to each other to support a public Teacher in a comfortable and decent manner, by free contributions only.

“ 4. The Society committee shall inspect into the circumstances of their Elder from time to time and apprise them of his wants, &c. Also it shall be their duty at the expiration of every year, to exhibit to their members a subscription paper, for the purpose of contribution as a gratuity for services the year past.

“ 5. The stated place of public worship to be at the Baptist meeting house in Woodstock.

“ 6. Ministers of all denominations to preach with them occasionally, at the request of the Society.

“ 7. The Society to have a standing Moderator and Clerk, who shall fairly record their doings.

“ 8. The Society shall have a standing committee to superintend their affairs, who shall have power to warn meetings. And each member shall consider himself in proposing, debating and voting, to be acting for the best good of the Society, according to his clearest discernment and judgment.

“ 9. Members to be received into the Society by a majority of votes, and each member shall insert his name in the Society list, which shall be kept by their clerk.

“ 10. Any member wishing to have his name erased from the Society list, by apprizing the Society thereof, may have it done accordingly.

“ 11. The union of the Society to continue until formally and legally dissolved in full meeting.

“ 12. This declaration and articles of agreement to be recorded in the Society book and shall be considered as the basis on which the Society is founded, and shall be read distinctly to every member, at his entrance into the Society.

“ 13. The aforesaid declaration, articles, &c. to be subject to

such enlargements, revisions and alterations, as the Society shall hereafter think proper, provided they in no case deviate or revert from the known and established principles of the Baptist profession.

“14. Finally, as we wish to have this Society formed on the broad and firm basis of Christian liberty, no member thereof shall be subjected to any civil prosecution for the support of the gospel, nor shall this Society have power to vote any settled salary or stipend for their minister, nor to collect by civil law any subscription for the above purpose. Yet the Society may expel any member whom they shall judge to be under the influence of a contracted, niggardly disposition in supporting the gospel, or for any other behavior below the christian character.

“Done at the request, and in behalf, and by order of the Society, by

“STEPHEN DELANO, *Society Clerk.*”

At this period the church was exceedingly prosperous, and in its two branches could probably “number more communicants than any other town within a hundred miles of them.”¹ But great trouble and disaster fell upon the church in the midst of this prosperity, owing to the imprudence of their pastor, Elder William Grow. He was accused of immoral conduct before the church; and at length, after much contention and bitter strife, a council was agreed upon, by which, after protracted hearing, he was deposed.

Pursuant to the decision of this council, and at an adjourned meeting of the society, held March 10, 1794, it was resolved that, “according to the last clause of the 14th article of union, we from henceforth exclude and expel from our Community the said William Grow, who by his misbehavior and chicanery has rendered himself unworthy of longer membership in this Society.” The proceedings of this meeting, attested by Josiah Dunham, moderator, and Stephen Delano, clerk, were published in “Spooner’s Vermont Journal” for April 21, 1794. Mr. Grow disregarded this decision of the council, as did also a portion of the church; and, by order of the church, a counter-statement, signed George Samson, clerk, was published in the “Journal” for January 26, 1795. This counter-statement complains that

¹ *Life of Ariel Kendrick*, p. 35.

the evidence upon which the society proceeded against the convict was mere suspicion, according to their own words ; that they had acted with undue haste in the matter, not waiting the joint action of the church ; and further had sent their discipline into the world contrary to the spirit of Christian charity ; and it concluded with these words : “ And with regard to unwarrantable conversation complained of, we think, of what a man has confessed in the church and obtained forgiveness for, he ought not to be publicly slandered with afterwards.” On account of the vexed state of the church, the finishing the meeting-house was stayed.

In the meantime the members of the Congregational Church, being without any place of worship, proposed to the Baptist Society to surrender the constitution of their house and make it free to all denominations, when they would take pews and finish it. Accordingly the proprietors' committee issued the following “ Address to the Baptist Church, etc., in Woodstock, etc., who are interested in the meeting-house, North Parish ” : —

“ We the committee of the Proprietors of said meetinghouse, with the advice, and at the request of a number of said Proprietors wish to address you on the subject of completing said Meeting house. You cannot look with indifference on the present state of the house as many of you are interested equally with ourselves, nor do we know of any possible remedy, unless there are some alterations made in the first arrangements on which it was proposed to build said house. Therefore we earnestly request that you would take these things into wise and candid consideration, and we presume, all things considered you will willingly rescind what is called the constitution on which it was built ; as that instrument has been we believe very disgusting to many peaceable members of society who would have been owners with us and still are willing if they can have equal priviledges with us. We suppose it needless to multiply many words on the subject, as a word to the wise is sufficient, and we are confident you will be always ready to do equal Justice to every proprietor.

JOSIAH DUNHAM	} <i>Proprietors Committee</i> ”
JOSEPH CHURCHILL	
GEORGE SIMMONS	

June 5, 1794, a meeting of the Baptist Society was held, of which the following is a copy of record : —

“ JUNE 5th 1794

“ The Bap Society met according to a legal warning at the M house.

“ Voted to adjourn this Meeting to the house of Mr. Churchill there to be again opened.

“ June 5th 1794 three o'clock P. M. the B. Society then met according to adjournment

“ Voted not to continue the building of the [meeting-house] according to the old plan

“ Voted to chuse a committee to confer with and make proposals to our congregational Brethren in the vicinity of this Society respecting their agreeing with us to come in on an everage to compleat the finishing the meeting house and have an equal privilege with us in regulating the religious worship.

“ Voted that Mefsr Joseph Churchill Nathan Russ John Palmer and Benja Burtch be a committee for the above purpose.

“ Voted that Mr. Thos. Cobb, gershom cobb, Mr. Miller, Mr. Ranalds, Mr. Willson, Mr. Strong at their request are dismissed as members of this Society, also Mr. Southgate, John Palmer ditto.

“ Voted to dissolve this meeting ”

Under the new arrangement, and with the help rendered by the Congregationalists, the West Meeting-house was finished in due time.

After Elder Grow's removal from the charge of the church, Ariel Kendrick was called to fill his place. Mr. Kendrick was born in Coventry, Conn., in 1772; came to Hanover, N. H., with his father's family, when five years old, and early in life united with Mr. Burroughs's church in that place. Afterwards he became a Baptist and joined the South Church in Woodstock, and was ordained in this town as an evangelist when he was twenty-three years old. He first preached six months in Sharon, then received a call to Woodstock, which he accepted, continuing to preach here five years.¹ He found the church at Woodstock

¹ Ariel Kendrick must have come to early as the year 1794. He taught the Woodstock for some permanent stay as school at the Flat in the winter of

in a most unpleasant and distracted state, growing out of the affair with Mr. Grow. Not long after he began his work, Mr. Daman, the Congregational minister, died, and his church waited on Mr. Kendrick's ministry. The West Meeting-house was now finished, and was spacious, airy, and complete, being constructed with side galleries, a sounding-board over the pulpit, but with no vestibule. The house was well enough, but the people neglected to support their minister. As Elder Kendrick sets forth the matter, the Congregationalists were indifferent and sparing, and the Baptists were mean. They believed that the sacred text, namely, "They that preach the gospel shall live of the gospel," taught that ministers should live on the truth they preached, and they enforced it so practically that the elder, much of the time, had little else for his sustenance. Often he walked two miles and performed the duties of the Sabbath without necessary food, because he had nothing suitable to take with him.

During the last two years of his labors in Woodstock, by request, he preached half the time in the court-house. Under this arrangement his congregation greatly increased, but his situation was still unpleasant. The Baptist Church was now nearly extinct, and those who waited on his ministry were a mixed multitude, who did not feel much interest in his support. After the fashion of the times they voted supplies generously from year to year, but only a few paid. Could he have received all that was voted thus for his benefit, he thinks he might have come out a rich man.¹

At this time a man resided in Woodstock named Stephen Delano, of whom mention has been made already. At the outset Delano had united with the Congregational Church under Mr. Daman, but in 1782 had gone over to the Baptists. He became at once a very active and prominent member of this order, and so continued till after the affair with Elder Grow. About this time his religious views underwent still further change, and he became a Universalist. Under the influence of this change, in the year 1798 he put forth a pamphlet, in two parts, under the title of "Miscellaneous Thoughts on the Doctrine of

1794-95, and Isaac Churchill was one of his pupils, who learned his letters this winter under Mr. Kendrick's instruction. account book: "March 1795. Kept Mr. Kendrick's horse 4 weeks and he had 300 hay; — 16 Pounds fresh pork."

The following is from Josiah Dunham's ¹ Kendrick's *Life*, pages 34 and 38.

Limited Election," etc. To the first part Kendrick made "A Brief Reply," in a pamphlet under that title issued in 1798. In the preface to this pamphlet, Kendrick had styled Delano "a lover of paper-war for many years," abundant proof of which may be found in the current pamphlets and newspapers of the day. To the second part of his pamphlet, issued in 1799, Delano appended a characteristic "Address" to Mr. Kendrick, called out by this reply, which is a good specimen of his style, and of the manner in which much of this "paper war" was carried on in those days of violent political and religious disputes.

In 1800 Mr. Kendrick closed his labors with the people here, and went to Salisbury, N. H.¹ After his departure the Rev. Aaron Woodward preached for a while to the Baptist Church,² and later still the Rev. Nehemiah Woodward. In 1806 the church reported to the Woodstock Baptist Association seventy-nine members, and informed the association that they had renounced their written articles of faith and practice. The association, thereupon, appointed a committee, consisting of Ariel Kendrick and one other, to visit the church. What came of this has not been ascertained, but the church in 1809 was dropped from the minutes of the association.

After a lapse of thirty years an effort was made to revive this institution, and on the 12th of February, 1839, a Baptist Church was once more organized on the Green. To this church the Rev. D. H. Ranney, of Townshend, was called as pastor. Mr. Ranney had embraced the sentiments of Robert Hall on communion, but went a little further, and endeavored to carry out Hall's principle to what was just as applicable, that is, "if it is right to commune with those who *seem to us to be unbaptized*, it is equally so to hold church relation with them." As some disturbance arose among the Baptist brethren on account of the peculiar opinions Mr. Ranney preached and promulgated from the pulpit in Woodstock, he was led to define his position in the theological world, and his present relation to the Baptist Church.

¹ At the celebration in Windsor, 1812, of the anniversary of the Battle of Bennington by the Republicans, Elder Kendrick, then settled at Cornish, gave the following toast: "The American Constitution. This powerful nation arose with its adoption, and on its preservation depends the happiness of unborn millions;

therefore may it be maintained inviolably, encircling with the beauties of the Rainbow at least eighteen fair legitimate sisters until nature sinks in endless night and the principle of natural attraction shall be lost from the universe;" which is pretty fair for the elder.

² Records of the Congregational Church.

This he did in a letter addressed to the editor of the "Vermont Chronicle," dated December 16, 1839, and published in the number of that paper for December 25th. This is interesting for one passage in it, which is here quoted: "Recommended by the brethren in the ministry, to a Baptist church,—when they fully understood my views, and had the assurance, positively, from me, that I should carry them out in practice whenever and wherever any church, *as a body*, would sustain me in it, I became *a member* and *pastor* of the Baptist Church in Woodstock,—which is regularly connected with the Woodstock Baptist Association."

A work giving a full and complete exposition of the views held by Mr. Ranney and his church was, soon after the above date, issued from the "Mercury" press in successive numbers. It was entitled, "The Evangelical Church; or, True Grounds for the Union of the Saints. By Darwin H. Ranney, A. M." The first number was issued in January, 1840, and the publication was continued through six monthly numbers, when the work was suspended.

Mr. Ranney continued to preach for about two years, and then went away, and the effort to further sustain this church was given up.

CHAPTER XX.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

THE Christian denomination made its first appearance in this town about the time of the general breaking-up of the Baptists. This sect seems to have sprung up simultaneously in different parts of the country, and was one of the legitimate fruits of the spirit of liberty diffused throughout the land by the operation of the American and French Revolutions. Its claim was, in matters pertaining to religion, to make the Bible the only guide, and to leave to every man the right of being his own expositor of it. In this vicinity it was composed mainly of persons who separated from the Calvinistic Baptists, and the separation seems to have been the result of some general consent and movement among many minds, rather than to have sprung from the influence or preaching of any one leading man. Consequently, the denomination does not, here or in any other part of the country, recognize any individual as its founder, — any Luther or Wesley as authority in matters of faith and practice. The Baptists, as they originally presented themselves in this community, were revolters against certain externals of the established priesthood, including black coats and surplices, college degrees, salaries to ministers, and written sermons; but they held on to church discipline and strict forms of doctrine, and wore the distinguishing badge of close communion. Against these latter points, also, the Christian connection protested, as equally unscriptural with the former, and equally foreign to the simplicity of the gospel and the practice of the apostles and primitive believers.¹

¹ Elias Smith was very sarcastic on the change of front among the Baptists, with regard to certain externals, after they grew numerous and wealthy in the country. "A few years since, they were exclaiming from the pulpits, private houses, barns, sheds and groves, against *black coats, reverends, parsons, doctors, note readers, salary men, hirelings, the devil's ministers, &c.* Now being in the same

bed where the clergymen once lay, they cry out, *wolves! false teachers! &c.*, and instead of reading 'feed my sheep,' they read, 'shear my sheep,' which when done, they think it their duty to go off with the fleece." — *Herald Gospel Liberty*, Nov. 13, 1812.

See, also, the *Herald* for March 29, 1811, and the *Life* in various places.

Among the first persons in this valley to assert for his religious belief the principles of this sect, was Abner Jones, who claims that during the years from 1793 to 1795 his religious views underwent a great change, and from a Calvinistic Baptist he became a New Testament Christian.¹ In September, 1801, while residing in Lyndon, Vt., he dropped the practice of medicine and became a preacher; and during the following months preached in Woodstock and Bridgewater, and claims to be the first preacher of this persuasion in these towns.

Elias Smith relates, in his "Life,"² that in June, 1803, Elder Abner Jones, from Vermont, came to visit him at Portsmouth, "and was the first free man I had ever seen. He had gone beyond me in several parts of doctrine." "He was received among the free will baptists and ordained by them; though he told them from the first he was not a free will baptist, but a christian."

With regard to the formation of the first Christian Church in this town, Elias Smith³ writes to this effect: that, upon invitation received from parties residing in Woodstock, who were determined to be free from all sectarian names, doctrines and laws, he came to this place in February, 1806. "I tarried and preached there about six weeks, and in that time about thirty-six united together as christians, owning Christ as their only Lord, Master and Lawgiver."

Uriah Smith, the brother of Elias, makes a statement of this kind: "I have been in this place almost seven years, at which time you well know, there was not a single church known in all Vermont by the name of Christian. I have baptized more than two hundred; have collected several churches by the New Testament name,—two in this town, and one or more in almost every town round about this."⁴

Other testimony goes to show that there was a distinct organization of the Christian Church at English Mills as early as 1806. Among its members were Joel English and wife, Deacon John Mackenzie and wife, Uriah Case and wife, Peter Ball and his wife, who was the daughter of Barkos Green, a member of

¹ He was baptized by Elder Elisha Ransom, near the West meeting-house, the 9th of June, 1793.

² Page 321.

³ *Life*, p. 358.

⁴ *Herald of Gospel Liberty*, Jan. 31, 1812; extract of a letter to the editor, dated Woodstock, Vt., Jan. 1, 1812.

the Congregational Church, George Thomas and wife, Martin Gilbert and wife, besides others. There was also a church organized not far from the same time at the South Parish. Among its members were Deacon Charles Mackenzie and wife, Mr. Dinsmore and wife, Deacon David Ralph, Lynde Ransom and wife, Richard Ransom, Jr., and wife, Perkins Mather and wife. After Mr. Plummer came, these two branches were united in one main church on the Green.¹ Uriah Smith was elder in the branch of the church at the South Part, while Elias Cobb was ordained an elder in the church, April 20, 1808.²

During the summer of 1808, in the month of August, a good work seems to have been going on in the northern part of Woodstock and in the adjoining sections of Pomfret, Barnard, and Bridgewater. Nine persons were baptized at one time in the stream near John Mackenzie's house. The appointment was at five o'clock in the morning, and such was the interest felt, that at least five hundred people — men, women, and children — were present to witness the ceremonies. Later in the season, and in the month of November, there was still a promising work going on, and much awakening among those of every class and age. Elder Uriah Smith baptized sixty-seven during the year, and Elder Cobb and others rising of a hundred.³

On the last Thursday in May, 1809, according to appointment, several of the elders of the Christian Church met at the West meeting-house in Woodstock, for the purpose of ordaining Reuben Dodge to the work of the ministry. The assembly was large and attentive to hear the preaching, and to see the order pursued in the matter of ordaining elders. There were present Elders Ramsey, Cobb, Farnum, Rand, U. Smith, and E. Smith, besides two Baptist ministers and one of the Methodist local preachers. The brother ordained, with those who laid on hands with prayer, kneeled down in the aisle, while a large assembly witnessed the solemn transaction. The next day there were two sermons delivered in the same place. Saturday and Lord's Day following, meetings were held in the South meeting-house in the same town. And then, one week later, on Sunday, the elders and brethren met in the West meeting-house, where a large

¹ Mrs. Jasper Hazen.

³ *Herald of Gospel Liberty*, Sept. 1,

² See *Records of Town Meetings*, vol. i. 1808.
p. 111.

number, not far from two hundred in all, were assembled. After preaching in the afternoon, they broke bread, and the meeting continued till almost night.¹

It was during the following year that Elder Frederick Plummer first visited Woodstock. He was attending the general conference at Bradford, N. H., where he met Richard Ransom, by whom he was persuaded to visit Woodstock. This was in the month of September, 1810. Mr. Ransom took the elder to his own home, and appointed a meeting at the court-house for the next Friday evening. Judge Strong and his wife, Roxy Lombard, Lyman Mower, Elias Thomas, Jr., and his mother, were all the persons then living on the Green who heard Mr. Plummer this first meeting he ever held in Woodstock. From outside of the Green, others besides these were present. Another meeting was appointed in the South Parish for Sunday following, and great numbers attended. Mr. Plummer was to leave next morning; but the people crowded about him after the meeting was over, declaring that he must not go, but must stay and preach for them longer. He consented, and gave his next discourse on Wednesday, at English Mills. Thursday afternoon he preached in the schoolhouse near the Eben Bridge farm, in Pomfret; Friday evening in the court-house once more, on the Green, when the place was thronged. The next day the monthly conference of the Christian Church was held in the hall of Richard Ransom's house, when there was a large gathering of people, and one person² was received into the church.

On Monday following, Mr. Plummer went to Unity, N. H., according to appointment, and was gone two weeks; then returned with Elder Rand, and held a meeting at the court-house. At this meeting Mr. Plummer said: "If any persons present desire to be prayed for, would they show their wishes by rising?" Thereupon some forty persons, young and old, rose up, including among the number Judge Strong and his wife; Dr. Gallup and his wife, and two of the children; Colonel George Raymond and wife, and his brother William. This occurred on a Thursday evening in October. After this, meetings were held every Thursday at the court-house, and at different places in the neighborhood on other days; for Mr. Plummer held a meeting somewhere every day of

¹ *Herald of Gospel Liberty*, July 7, 1809.

² Abigail Thomas, Sept. 29, 1810.

the week, and kept up this continuous labor all the winter following and into the spring season. One Thursday afternoon, in the month of November, a meeting was held in the court-house, which was protracted till dark. It was arranged that at the close of the meeting baptism should be administered to some of the converts. At a point in the Oil Mill Brook, just below the jail bridge, was a deep and spacious pool; and where the engine-house now stands, was a smooth, grassy bank, affording easy access to the pool. Hither the people moved, after the meeting closed, — some to be baptized, others to witness the ceremony, while lanterns were brought forth to furnish light for the occasion; and here Judge Strong, Dr. Gallup and his wife, and some others, including young persons and old, were baptized by Mr. Plummer. Quite a number of Congregationalists were baptized during these meetings, with consent of their church, who did not leave the Congregational communion. Mr. Chapin, indeed, the pastor of that church, was inclined to extend fellowship to the new converts. Boarding, as he did that fall and winter, with Dr. Gallup, he was in the midst of the reformation, attended many of the meetings, and heard fifty persons relate their experience, and gave it as his judgment that they indicated change of heart and genuine Christian character.¹

In the spring of 1811, the different branches of the Christian church in this town were united, under the oversight of Elder Plummer, in one main church on the Green. Mr. Plummer made this place his central field of labors, and called it home for three years, in the meanwhile visiting the neighboring towns and baptizing many.² Hartland, Bethel, and Chelsea especially were scenes of much earnest work. Seventy-five were baptized in the months of April and May, 1812, making in all three hundred and sixty-seven whom he had been called to serve in this ordinance during his stay thus far in this quarter.³

On Saturday, October 10, 1812, there was a general meeting of the elders and brethren at Woodstock Green, for preaching, exhortation, etc. There was a very large gathering, especially the day following, being the Lord's day. Great harmony ap-

¹ The principal facts contained in this statement concerning the reformation under Elder Plummer were collected in a conversation with Mrs. Jasper Hazen, Oct. 15, 1870.

² *Herald of Gospel Liberty*, April 24, 1812.

³ *Herald of Gospel Liberty*, June 19, 1812.

peared among the preachers, and many enlivening exhortations were pronounced from young and old among the brethren. The elders from the Southern States and the West gave interesting accounts of the condition of the churches. Monday forenoon a business meeting was held at the court-house, at which a plan was arranged for the elders and unordained preachers to visit various parts of the country, different sections being allotted to each. To Brothers J. Hazen and Thompson was assigned Albany County, N. Y. In the afternoon the people met for worship; and, after preaching, Brother Ball was ordained to the work of an evangelist, and Elders Mark Norris and Doubleday were received as fellow-laborers.¹

After the departure of Mr. Plummer from Woodstock in 1813, preaching was supplied to the Christian Society here by Elders Cobb, Holt, and others, till Elder John Rand came. He had been laboring at Ipswich, Mass., for several years, from which place he removed to this town about the year 1814.²

A general meeting of the denomination was held in Woodstock, closing August 27, 1816, an account of which is given in the "Herald of Gospel Liberty," vol. viii., No. 3, addressed to the editor, and signed by John Bement and John Rand. The meeting commenced at the West Meeting-house on Friday, the 23d day of the month, at one o'clock in the afternoon. Elder Joseph Ball spoke first in a pertinent and edifying manner. After singing and a few short exhortations, he was followed by Elder Benjamin Putnam, who spoke from the words, "Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord." On Saturday, at one o'clock (having met in conference in the morning), they assembled at the court-house according to appointment. After some short exhortations and singing, Elder J. Spencer spoke from the words, "Godliness is profitable unto all things." His discourse was very solemn, and his appeal to the hearts of his hearers was with power.

On Sunday morning they met again at South Meeting-house, where the assembly was greatly increased. Two sermons were preached in course of the day to an attentive audience. Between five and six o'clock in the afternoon, the brethren and sisters were seated in the body of the house for the purpose of breaking

¹ *Herald*, Oct. 30, 1812.

on the day of the National Thanksgiving

² See his discourse delivered at the South Meeting-house, in Woodstock, Vt., for the Return of Peace, April 15, 1815.

bread ; they spoke one by one while surrounding the board, and about one hundred and sixty communed together. The conference begun on Saturday was continued Monday and Tuesday. At this conference a report was read from Brothers Putnam and Rand concerning Shubael Little, of Hillsborough, N. H., who had been in fellowship among the denomination as a minister of the New Testament. Their report not being favorable, it was unanimously resolved that the "said Shubael Little is no longer in fellowship with us either as a minister or member of the Church of Christ."

After remaining here about two years,¹ Elder Rand left for other fields of work, and was succeeded by Elder Jasper Hazen, who continued to be the efficient and successful pastor of the church through many years of labor and sacrifice, till, in the year 1846, he resigned, and removed from this place to Albany, N. Y., being succeeded by the Rev. Moses Kidder, who still [1886] has charge of the church and society.

When the church was first organized, meetings were held at the schoolhouse near English Mills, at Richard Ransom's in the South Part, or in dwelling-houses, as might be convenient. After Mr. Plummer came, through the influence of Judge Strong, the court-house was opened to the free use of the church ; and this continued till 1825, when Mr. Clap was sent for, and the court-house was engaged by his friends for half the time. This set the Christian Society to the serious thought of building a church of their own,² and the next year Elder Hazen bought a strip of land on Pleasant Street for that purpose, of Sylvester Edson. Here he proceeded to erect a "meeting-house for the Christian Society," and the corner-stone of the building was laid with appropriate services Thursday, August 10, 1826, at 8 o'clock in the forenoon. The house was completed during the season, and opened for public worship in the January following, and dedicated Thursday, the 18th day of that month. The exercises were attended in the following order : —

1. Sacred music.
2. Prayer by Elder Huntington, of Chelsea.
3. Sacred music.
4. Prayer by Elder Jones, of Salem, Mass.
5. Sacred music.

¹ Mrs. Jasper Hazen.

² Mrs. Hazen, October 29, 1870.

6. Sermon by Elder Jones.
7. Prayer by Elder Hazen, of this town.
8. Sacred music.
9. Benediction.

Notwithstanding the severity of the weather, the house was filled to overflowing.

The assembly then separated, highly gratified, and heard, as they withdrew, the chorus, "I beheld, and lo! a great multitude," etc. The choir had the assistance of the members of other choirs in the vicinity, and of individuals from abroad.

In 1828 Elder Hazen purchased by subscription a town clock, and had it set up in the tower of the church. The clock did service till the year 1859, when, some time in that year, for some cause, it was seized with a violent fit of striking, run down, and was never heard afterwards in this village. The next year it was sold to parties in Bethel, and is now doing service in the Universalist Church in that town. In 1860 the building was repaired and greatly improved; and still later, in the year 1876, with the friendly assistance of Frederick Billings, of this town, it underwent more thorough and extensive repairs, and was greatly beautified and improved in its external and internal appearance. Also a new town clock of superior workmanship was placed in the tower by Mr. Billings, which proves to be an excellent timekeeper.

ELDER FREDERICK PLUMMER.

The father of Rev. Frederick Plummer was Mr. Silas Plummer, of Haverhill, Mass., a respectable citizen, known as friendly to the Christian religion, who never (if my recollection of statements from one of his worthy sons now deceased is correct) made a distinct profession of Christianity. Mrs. Plummer, the mother of Frederick, has been represented by her devout sons as a person of deep religious interest and character. They lived in what is now the city of Haverhill, in a house so located as, at a distance of a quarter of a mile from its left bank, to overlook the flowing Merrimac, which is there quite a noble river. They had several sons and daughters, distinguished in after-life for excellences of character, among whom were Frederick and Henry, two able and deservedly esteemed ministers of Christ. The last survivor of the noble band of brothers was Rev. Henry Plummer, a man

greatly beloved, who died in Haverhill, where he had spent most of his life, after having passed his threescore years and ten.

Frederick Plummer was born on the 3d day of July, 1787. Perhaps the best comment or history of his childhood days which can be written would be the statement of a simple fact, full of beauty, concerning his last hours. When very near to death, half sleeping, half waking, with rapturous sweetness he talked of the loved home of his childhood, "the house on the hill," and of "father and brothers" that he tenderly loved in memory.

His educational privileges were only those afforded in the common town-schools of that period, and but little time was spent even in those. But his active and brilliant intellect appropriated those privileges to the best advantage.

When quite young, he heartily embraced the Christian religion, and made a public profession. The venerable Elder Moses How, of New Bedford, Mass., a contemporary of the family, and in early life a resident of Haverhill, says that he was baptized in Philadelphia, Penn. He commenced preaching in or about the year 1806. His first public discourse from a Scriptural selection or text was at the village of Assonet, Mass., in presence of Rev. Philip Hathaway and other preachers. It was an occasion of most extraordinary mental and spiritual struggles with him. He was only nineteen years of age, and felt constrained, against the formalities of the time, against the popular customs, and against all his feelings of weakness and inefficiency, as a duty he owed to the Saviour, to give himself to the ministry of the simple word of God, with no creed but the great Christian school-book, the Bible, — no church limitations but the brotherhood of Christ. It was "giving up all for Christ." A great effect followed, both upon the preacher and his hearers. A trial of faith and heart in the young preacher was immediately consequent upon his first discourse, reducing him to the weakness of an infant child, and to great distress even of body. Those who witnessed it, when they saw his after-usefulness, believed it to have been for and by the same cause of the Saviour's temptation and struggles when entering his greater ministry.

He applied himself with great diligence and devotion to his ministry, traveling extensively in the different New England States. In 18— his mind was turned toward Vermont, where, at Woodstock, Chelsea, and other places, great effects followed

his preaching. His first discourse at Woodstock, as graphically described by Deacon Elias Thomas more than a quarter of a century after, was a simple but never-to-be-forgotten discourse upon the text, "Godliness is profitable to all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." Multitudes were converted thenceforth in Vermont.

After leaving Vermont, many places were visited by him in New England. A visit to New Bedford and Fairhaven, Mass., was the commencement of a religious awakening through that region, during which it is said that not less than one thousand and five hundred persons obeyed the gospel of Christ.

Afterwards he settled in the city of Philadelphia, Penn., where he was very useful and much esteemed. He had a pastoral care over five or six churches in and near Philadelphia in 1840. After the decease of his excellent wife, Catharine, he left that city and removed to the southern part of Massachusetts, residing for a time at Somerset, and finally at Assonet Village. He married, as a second wife, Miss Rachel Hathaway, of Assonet, and by her was the father of one and his only child.

After nearly a year's illness from an internal cancer, he died, at the house of his wife's mother in Assonet Village, on the morning of the 26th of May, 1854. The writer of this was present at his death. It was the most extraordinary scene of the kind he has ever witnessed. None could have been there without being constrained to say, "Let me die the death of the righteous." The church in Assonet, of which he was pastor, immediately and unanimously passed the following resolutions: —

"*Resolved*, That the dispensation of Providence, by which a brother in Christ long known and highly valued and esteemed in the ministry of the Word has been taken from us, is an afflictive dispensation, which should cause us to clothe ourselves with humility and mourning, as a religious people.

"*Resolved*, That as a church it becomes us to sincerely mourn in our affliction, and that we will attend as mourners at the last services and upon the last occasion in which we can show our respect and love to the name of our highly esteemed and excellent brother."

The funeral took place on the 31st of May, attended by various ministers and many people, when a discourse was preached by A. G. Comings from the Apostle Paul's expression, "I have

fought a good fight," etc. He was buried in the cemetery in front of the meeting-house, where a beautiful monument of Italian marble has been erected by the widow, with inscriptions on three sides. The inscription on the west or front side is as follows : —

FREDERICK PLUMMER.

Born July 3, 1787.

Died May 26, 1854.

48 YEARS MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL.

The first wife of Elder Frederick Plummer was Miss Catharine Barkloe, of Philadelphia, Penn.

The second wife was, before marriage, Miss Rachel Hathaway, daughter of Edmund Hathaway, of Freetown, Mass., who was born December 14, 1815. They were married at Freetown by Elder Luther Baker (now deceased) on the 27th of January, 1851. They had one child, Mary Adams Plummer, who was born on the 21st of March, 1852, and who died in March, 1870, aged eighteen years. She was Elder Plummer's only child.

Assonet Village is within the town of Freetown, Mass.¹

ELDER JASPER HAZEN.

Jasper Hazen was born in Hartford, Vt., December 2, 1790. His father was Daniel Hazen, and his mother's name was Olive Bartholomew Hazen. Daniel Hazen was an excellent man, and a member of the Congregational Church at Dothan. He was in good standing as a member, until he admitted into his house the first Methodist preacher ever in town, to hold a meeting there. As he continued to permit such meetings to be held thus occasionally, the church at Dothan remonstrated with him, dealt with him, and finally expelled him. This proceeding on the part of the church grieved Daniel Hazen, but did not cause him to change his conduct toward the Methodists.

Jasper had two brothers, Daniel and Noah, and one sister. Daniel became a farmer and a licensed preacher ; Noah, a manufacturer and business man. Laura was married to Philo Sprague, a farmer.

It was at the age of eighteen that Jasper Hazen began his religious experience, and at nineteen that he began to preach.

¹ The sketch of Elder Plummer was furnished by Rev. A. G. Comings.

This, he conceived, was to be the chief business of his life. His first efforts in this direction were made in the vicinity where he lived, but in a short time he passed over into New Hampshire, and preached in various places, extending his travels in the regions of the Merrimac, as far as Hopkinton. Encountering opposition here from the leaders of the Baptists, who did not think it becoming in them to receive as a religious instructor a boy from Vermont, he persevered in spite of the opposition, and was listened to with great kindness, even by the Baptist people. Having at length fulfilled his mission in those parts, he did not organize any church, but returned home, leaving to others to reap the fruit of his labors.

His next step was to travel westward into the State of New York, where he taught school for some months. Here, in the fall and winter of 1812, under order of the General Conference of the Christian Church, he preached throughout the county of Albany in connection with Brother Thompson. November 11, 1813, he married Abigail Crossman Thomas, of Woodstock, and, having been ordained an elder in the Christian Church, December 26, 1813, he settled in Hartford as a preacher, and remained there two years. September, 1815, he bought of Elias Thomas, his father-in-law, the farm in Woodstock which the latter had occupied upwards of forty-five years. Mr. Hazen now turned his attention to farming for a while, teaching school also at intervals. In the winter of 1819 he kept a private school at his house on the farm. Among the number of his scholars were included Eunice Thomas, Luke Thomas, Harvey Thomas, Daniel and Owen Taft, Arad and Elias Thomas, Oliver H. McKenzie, and Henry Mower. These all boarded with Mr. Hazen. Their study hours out of school embraced one and a half hours in the evening and one hour in the morning. He continued this private school the following spring, occupying the schoolhouse on the Green.¹ He afterwards kept the district school two winters in the said brick schoolhouse. In addition to other work he published a spelling-book in 1822, which was in general use in our schools for many years.

¹ "Jasper Hazen informs his friends that he this day commences his school in the schoolhouse on the Green, for the accommodation of those who may wish him to instruct their children. He will board those who wish it, at his own house, and direct their studies before and after school hours. WOODSTOCK, March 13 [1820]."

In 1823 and 1824 he was elected to represent the town in the Legislature, and in December, 1823, was appointed register of probate for the district of Hartford, which office he held four years. Also in 1827, in connection with Abner D. Jones, he began the publication of a periodical under the title of "The Gospel Banner," which was continued only a short time. What and how great were his services, and for how long a period continued, in behalf of the Christian Church in this village, has been related elsewhere. At the beginning of the year 1847 he removed to Albany, N. Y., and there edited the "Christian Palladium" for eight years, and for some time after that the "Family Intelligencer." In addition to this work he still continued to preach, often being called to do this in Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist churches, where there was a vacancy in the pulpit, or upon invitation from the respective pastors of these churches.

But now it came to pass that, after the lapse of many years spent in faithful service of various kinds, this good man grew old, and his increasing infirmities warned him to withdraw from the active duties of life. He returned to Woodstock, therefore, after an absence of twenty-one years, to spend the remainder of his days with his children, and here peacefully closed his life the 30th day of March, 1882.

CHAPTER XXI.

UNIVERSALIST CHURCH.

It is handed down by tradition that John Sanderson and Captain Israel Richardson were the first Universalists in Woodstock. Each, independent of the other, had come to favor the doctrine of the final happiness of all mankind, and it was by conversing together that they learned their religious sentiments were the same. At first they kept their thoughts to themselves, partly because their own minds were not yet clear on the subject, partly because they did not wish to provoke the hostility of their neighbors. But in August, 1786, it began to be whispered about that Benjamin Emmons, deacon in the Congregational Church, and one of its most active and influential members, had embraced the doctrine of Universalism. This report concerning Deacon Emmons caused great disturbance in the church. Meetings were called and councils invoked, and the matter was not settled, nor was peace restored to the church, till many years had passed away.

By this time a Universalist Society, and perhaps two of them, had become firmly established in Woodstock. The earliest direct notice as yet discovered of the existence of such a society is in the following, taken from the records of Pomfret : —

“These certify that Lieut. Israel Keith is a professed Universalist and is a member of the Universalist Society in Woodstock.

“ISRAEL RICHARDSON, *Moderator*.

“WOODSTOCK, 30th December, 1789.”

When this society was first organized, and on what terms, are particulars unknown at this time; but another certificate, taken also from the records of Pomfret, runs thus : —

"This may certify that Timothy Mitchell is a member of the Independent Catholick Society in Woodstock.¹

"ISRAEL RICHARDSON, *Moderator*.

"WOODSTOCK, *July 19, 1794.*"

The persons named in the above certificates were inhabitants of Pomfret, and the certificates were entered in the records to relieve them from paying the tax for the support of public worship in the town, which all persons were obliged to pay except as exempted by the provisions of the law. The records thus furnish direct evidence that a Universalist Society, so called, existed very early in Woodstock, and also embraced among its members persons from the neighboring towns.

From all that can be ascertained, it is evident that the first Universalist Society in this town was organized about the year 1786, perhaps a year or two later. That the doctrine of universal salvation was then making considerable progress in this community is certain. The history of the Congregational Church shows that about this time several left that communion because of their adoption of this belief. And so great was the spread of the doctrine through this and the neighboring towns, that it was deemed advisable by the leaders of the movement in New England to hold the General Convention of the denomination for 1799 at Woodstock. Over this convention presided Hosea Ballou, already giving promise of the fame and influence he was destined to secure in the religious world. Besides Ballou, there were present at the convention but two other preachers, William Farwell and Walter Ferris. The meetings were held at the court-house. Elisha West, at that time the musical leader in these parts, conducted the singing at the head of an excellent choir. The principal discourse was delivered by Mr. Ballou, who took for his subject the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. Interest and curiosity brought large numbers of people to attend these meetings, and the spirit in which they were conducted gave considerable impulse to the new doctrine in this vicinity.

¹ There is no end to the curiosities connected with the use of this word "Catholic" among religious bodies. Here in Woodstock, a hundred years ago, is a church or religious society established, that calls itself, not *Roman Catholic*, nor *American Catholic*, but, more remarkable still, *Independent Catholic*.

The Universalist Society in Woodstock at this time embraced among its members Deacon Benjamin Emmons, William Perry (judge of probate), Captain John Strong, and Dr. Stephen Powers, all of them seceders from the Congregational Church, — men of strong character, and of wide influence in the community. To this number may be added Captain George Simmons, a seceder from the Baptists, who afterwards moved to Stowe. Captain Israel Richardson, perhaps the first person in town to profess Universalism, had died in the spring of 1799. These men, who had been accustomed to solid preaching, took a liking to Mr. Ballou for the vigor of his discourse and the earnestness with which he entered into the work of propagating his peculiar belief. The Calvinism still left in his composition did not hurt him for them, but rather added flavor to his preaching. Moreover, they were sagacious enough to recognize the fact that all things were working propitiously just then for the advancement of Universalism. Owing to the imprudence of Mr. William Grow and the missteps of Elder Elisha Ransom, the Baptist Church was now fast losing its visibility in Woodstock. The Congregational Church was without a settled minister or a separate place of worship, and was suffering under the depressing effect of having lost to the Universalist persuasion nearly a third of its members. The Methodists, who were now making their first movements in this region, alone exhibited vigorous signs of life. Owing to such a state of things in the religious world, the points of resistance to the spread of Universalism were seriously weakened, which gave men good cause to think that now was the time for the advocates of the new faith to hasten in and possess the land. Consequently, soon after the convention of 1799, Woodstock and Barnard were added to Mr. Ballou's circuit, giving him a ride which extended from Barnard on the north to Gloucester, at Cape Ann, on the Atlantic coast, south, while the centre of his movements and his place of residence were at Dana, Worcester County, Mass.¹ This circuit he performed once in two months, at intermediate points, making it in his way to preach oftentimes daily. At Dana he supplied the desk about once a month. His pay in the mean time might average five dollars a Sunday, with week-day work mostly thrown in.

Hosea Ballou, familiarly called in later days Father Ballou,

¹ Stacy's *Memoirs*.

was born in Richmond, N. H., April 30, 1771. Maturin Ballou, a Baptist clergyman, was his father. His mother's maiden name was Lydia Harris. His schooling was of the most limited sort. He learned to spell, read, and write on the slate, using, in place of the ordinary slate, a board or strips of birch bark. To the little learning he picked up in this way at the common schools he added, after reaching manhood, a few months' training at the academy, where he gained a very moderate acquaintance with grammar and history. Style, or what is sometimes called fine writing, Mr. Ballou never had opportunity to cultivate. So far as religious instruction was concerned, young Hosea was brought up in the strictest tenets of Calvinism. His knowledge on these points was derived not so much from books — for books he did not have — as from the preaching and conversation of his father, and the other clergymen who from time to time visited Mr. Ballou's house. In the month of January, 1789, he united with the Baptist Church in Richmond, of which his father had been previously the pastor. He was at this time a Calvinistic Baptist, and, in the discussions in which he became involved with certain persons in Richmond who professed Universalism, he defended his Calvinism with zeal and ability. It is difficult to tell by what process of thinking or through what convictions men are brought at any time to make radical changes in their religious belief; but, in course of the reasonings and disputes with which Ballou was occupied at this time, he was led in some manner to form this judgment about his Calvinistic tenets, — namely, that those tenets could be managed so as either to result in universal salvation, or he be compelled to acknowledge the partiality of the divine favor.¹ In working out his conclusion from such a judgment, his decision was not hasty, as it seems, but at last his mind became quite settled in the belief that God will finally have mercy on all men. In the fall before he was one-and-twenty, he adopted and preached Universalism on the Calvinistic principle of atonement and imputed righteousness.

In September, 1791, he made his first visit to the General Convention of Universalists, held that year in Oxford, Mass., where that body was organized just six years before. He had never preached yet, but soon after this he delivered his first sermon at

¹ Whittemore's *Life*, vol. i. p. 53.

Richmond.¹ The minds of his hearers were about evenly balanced whether he would ever make a preacher or not.

At the General Convention held at Oxford in 1794 he received ordination. Up to this time he had been Trinitarian in his views, as, with few exceptions, was then in fact the entire body of Universalists. But he now began to entertain doubts on this point, which in a short time developed fully, and in 1795 he openly preached Unitarianism. Also those other doctrines he had hitherto maintained, of vicarious suffering and imputed righteousness, were now abandoned. It is interesting to note how Mr. Ballou outstripped his seniors in the development of his religious opinions. Such men as Murray, Adam Streeter, and Barnes had been brought up thorough Calvinists like himself, and in the main held by their Calvinism to the end. Ballou could not rest till he had discharged his mind of every remnant of that doctrine, and the impulse which his vigorous spirit gave to the development of Universalism soon converted to his views the great body of its professors throughout New England.

In February, 1803, Mr. Ballou accepted a call to settle over the united societies of Barnard, Bethel, Bridgewater, Woodstock, and Hartland. His place of residence was fixed at Barnard as the most central point, and here he was ordained, the following September, "a preacher of the Gospel according to the Abrahamic faith, which is that in thy Seed, and that Seed Christ, shall all the nations, all the families, and all the kindreds of the earth be blessed : at Barnard, Vt., on Tuesday the 27th of September, 1803.

JOAB YOUNG, Presiding Elder."

With the foregoing may be fitly connected the "Profession of Belief" adopted at the General Convention holden in Winchester, N. H., this same month of September, 1803, which runs as follows : —

"ARTICLE THE FIRST.

"We believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain a revelation of the character of God, and of the duty, interest, and final destination of mankind.

"ARTICLE THE SECOND.

"We believe there is one God, whose nature is love, revealed

¹ His text on the occasion was taken from 1 Cor. i. 30.

in one Lord Jesus Christ by one Holy Spirit of grace, who will finally restore the whole family of mankind to holiness and happiness.

“ARTICLE THE THIRD.

“We believe that holiness and true happiness are inseparably connected, and that believers ought to be careful to maintain order and practise good works; for these things are good and profitable unto men.”

After much debate, and notwithstanding much opposition on the part of a few members of the Convention, this Profession of Belief was adopted, with a resolution appended, *that no alteration should ever be made hereafter to the Confession of Faith.*

While settled in Barnard, Mr. Ballou found abundance of work ready for his hands. His first care was for the society over which he was placed, but he extended his labors into other parts of the State. Invitations to preach came in from all quarters. These he endeavored to meet by occasional journeys abroad, during which he might be found preaching Sundays and week-days, and often twice or three times a day. In addition to his labors in this direction, he published two works of a doctrinal character, his first efforts of the kind. The first was called “Notes on the Parables,” an octavo pamphlet of eighty pages, printed at Randolph, by Sereno Wright, in 1804. The other was the “Treatise on Atonement,” written in the winter of 1804 and 1805, and printed at Randolph, by Sereno Wright, in 1805, and perhaps the most remarkable and influential of all the books Ballou ever wrote.¹ To his labors in Vermont Mr. Ballou added travels and labors out of the State. In the summer of 1806 he attended the first session of the association of Universalists in the State of New York, held at Columbus; a journey which he repeated the following year, when the association met at New Hartford, Oneida County. He was also appointed this year on a committee with Revs. Edward Ferris and Abner Kneeland, to bring out a new hymn-book for the denomination. This book was printed in 1808 at Walpole, N. H., for the committee, by

¹ “The *Treatise on Atonement* had a wonderful influence ‘in shaping’ our ‘religious views,’ mainly in regard to the *finite* nature of sin, in opposition to the then prevalent doctrine among us; and in reference to the doctrine of the

Trinity, vicarious sufferings of Jesus, etc., etc.” [Letter from Mr. Streeter, Aug. 4, 1870.]

“An excellent and unanswerable work.” [Kneeland’s Lectures.]

George W. Nichols. It contained four hundred and ten hymns, of which Mr. Ballou composed one hundred and ninety-three. It passed through two editions only, and in the course of five years was laid aside by most of the societies.¹

During the period of his labors in Vermont, Mr. Ballou had plenty of controversies on his hands. A share in this element of the religious life of the times he might consider his by right, as one of the pioneers in propagating a new doctrine. But in addition to that his own spirit was aggressive, and therefore he did not lose willingly any good occasion to give blows, though quite ready to take fair blows back. Among his many encounters, one with Elias Smith at the West Meeting-house may be given here in the form tradition has handed it down. It took place on a Sunday, which may be placed in the year 1806, though there is no certainty about the date.

Smith was a man of native abilities above the ordinary, a vigorous speaker, and, like Ballou himself, always ready for a fight. Ballou led the charge, occupying the hour given to the morning service. His text on the occasion cannot be recalled. The house was packed in the mean time, as might be expected from the fame of the combatants. Smith took his seat among the audience, and sat with head bent forward and chin resting on his breast, not looking up once during the whole discourse. Ballou's reputation is a sufficient guarantee that in this case, as in all similar ones, he did justice to his side of the argument; for he was too wise ever to think meanly of an opponent. But Smith in some respects was unsurpassed among the popular preachers of the day. He had labored diligently to make himself familiar with the Scriptures, and had acquired great readiness in quoting from different parts of the Bible, especially from the gospels and epistles. While not so logical in thought as Ballou, and while less weighty and dignified in style, in ease and fluency of speaking and in nimbleness of mind he was perhaps his superior. He took his turn in the afternoon and spoke from the words, "Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures." The fame of that discourse has not yet passed away; but, though each party at the time claimed the victory for its own champion, the candid observer may safely con-

¹ The denomination has scarcely done justice by Ballou's hymns. Perhaps they are too orthodox, many of them. See, in the original Hymn-Book, hymn 171, which has for its theme, "The Scriptures not the Work of Man." The sentiment was never better expressed than in that hymn.

clude that the cause of truth is not materially helped by such controversies, however brilliant may be the display of wit and thought on the occasion.

In August, 1809, Mr. Ballou received a call from the Universalist Society in Portsmouth, N. H., which he accepted, and he was settled in that place the following November. His work was finished in Vermont. That work had been faithfully performed, and all gave him credit for zeal and ability in advancing and defending his religious views, and for sincerity in maintaining them, both by precept and example. At the time he left Woodstock, he stood at the head of his denomination beyond a doubt, and probably at no other period of his life was he more widely popular and influential.¹

After Mr. Ballou's departure the Universalist society in this town was without a settled minister for some years. Yet preaching was kept up to some degree, and various ministers of the denomination who were established in other parts of the State, or elsewhere, preached here an occasional Sunday, sometimes several Sundays in succession. Among these were Joab Young, of Strafford, and C. G. Persons, of Windsor.² As late as 1825, Uriah Smith appears as an accredited preacher of the denomination in Woodstock; Jacob Holt, Jr., from 1826 to 1832; and William Bell, editor of the "Christian Repository," from 1831 to 1834, when he moved to Montpelier.

But when Russell Streeter came here in 1834 he found the old society virtually disbanded, and proceeded at once to organize a new one, which assumed the title of the North Universalist Chapel Society. At the same time a society was organized in the South Parish, also under the charge of Mr. Streeter. As the society in the North Parish at this time was without a place of worship, meetings were held at first in the court-house. In the summer of 1835 a commodious chapel was erected on Church Street, which was completed in November and dedicated on the 18th day of that month, with sermon by the pastor. The sermon was mainly devoted to an exposition of the peculiar doctrines of Unitarian Universalists, with a review of those of a con-

¹ The facts concerning Mr. Ballou contained in the foregoing sketch are derived mainly from Whittemore's Life of this distinguished man.

² Mr. Streeter once said to me that he

thought E. Paine succeeded Ballou for a while as minister over the united societies of Barnard and Woodstock. I have not been able to gain further information on that point.

flicting character. The next day Mr. Streeter was formally installed. Rev. H. Haven gave the sermon, and the other services in order were performed by Rev. J. Moore, Rev. D. Forbes, and Rev. W. S. Ballou.

After a pastorate of four years Mr. Streeter resigned, but continued to preach regularly in the church at the South Village till he went to Portland in 1847. The society in the North Parish being now without a preacher, Mr. Fay was engaged to supply the desk. He was ordained the 23d day of June, 1840, and remained with the society rather more than one year. He was succeeded by Rev. O. H. Tillotson, who continued pastor nearly four years, and was followed by Mr. Daggett, who left in 1847. Rev. D. M. Reed came next and continued to preach to the society nearly four years; in the meantime making a trip to Europe for his health. The next minister was Jonathan Douglass, who came in 1852 and stayed till the fall of the following year, when he was succeeded by Mr. Chapman, who remained only about six months. In April, 1854, Rev. J. S. Lee was settled over the society for half the time for one year, then during the three succeeding years for all the time. Following Mr. Lee in 1859 came J. D. Cargill, who preached to the society for two years, then William H. Pattee for one year; then Rev. Moses Marston till April, 1866. After Mr. Marston went away, the society was without preaching for one year, during which period the church edifice was thoroughly repaired, and was dedicated anew on the 7th of February, 1867.

The next April Rev. J. T. Powers was settled over the society and remained till July, 1870; then Rev. Elmer Hewitt, from April, 1871, to October, 1876. Following Mr. Hewitt came O. K. Crosby; settled over the society April 22, 1877, when failing health soon obliged him to give up preaching; and then, in 1880, the society extended a call to Lucian S. Crosley, who, after a stay of about two years, was succeeded by Rev. B. M. Tillotson, the present incumbent.

In connection with the church a Ladies' Sewing Society was formed at an early day, which has had a career of marked usefulness and still continues in active operation. For a considerable period of time after the construction of the church edifice in 1835, it remained without an organ. At last one of moderate dimensions was provided, which served its turn for a series of

years, and was then replaced by an instrument of much superior quality.

September, 1877, the dwelling-house on Church Street formerly owned and occupied by Dr. Thomas E. Powers was purchased by the society and converted into a parsonage.

REV. RUSSELL STREETER.

Russell Streeter was born in Chesterfield, N. H., the 15th of April, 1791. His father was Barzillai Streeter, a native, and for some time a resident, of Cumberland, R. I., and by occupation a farmer and mechanic. His mother's maiden name was Nancy Brown, and she too was of Cumberland. The family moved into Swansey, a town adjoining Chesterfield, when Russell was seven years old, and thence soon after into the town of Richmond, and, having remained in that place six years, returned to Swansey for a permanent home. Up to the age of fifteen, Russell Streeter enjoyed only the common-school advantages of the day, and poor at that. When he was thirteen years old, a revival took place among the Freewill Baptists of Richmond, under the influence of which he was brought, and took therefrom strong religious impressions. About this time dates his first serious study of the Bible, and by the time he reached fifteen years he had come to embrace the doctrine of Universalism. He now fell in with and read carefully Hosea Ballou's "Treatise on Atonement," and the wonderful effect that treatise had in shaping his religious views he more than once expressed in after-life. After becoming established in his religious belief, he decided to be a preacher, and took up a course of study to that end. In September, 1810, he received fellowship at the General Convention which met in Langdon, N. H., and soon after began to preach at Westminster, Vermont, in the Rev. Mr. Sage's church. From this time till 1821 he continued preaching in various places in New Hampshire and Vermont, wherever there was a call for his labors. In January of that year he was invited to preach in Portland, Maine, and in the following March he organized the first Universalist society established in that place. The next September he began the publication of the "Christian Intelligencer," a quarterly, of which he remained editor for some years. After spending six years of varied and faithful service in Portland, Mr. Streeter left that city and settled in Watertown, Mass. While

residing in Watertown he completed the compilation of a new hymn-book, receiving from his brother Sebastian aid in revising and improving the copy. In March, 1829, the hymn-book was published by them as joint owners, and was generally adopted by the denomination. The following November Mr. Streeter left Watertown and moved to Shirley, where he settled upon a farm he had purchased, dividing his time between the care of the farm and occasional preaching. He remained in Shirley till November, 1834, when he came to Woodstock, and was settled over the church and society in this place. In 1847, hearing that his old church in Portland was without a pastor, he visited that city once more, and, contrary to his expectations, he continued there preaching nearly seven years. Then bidding adieu to the society and his many friends in Portland, he returned to Woodstock. The remaining years of Mr. Streeter's life were spent in comparative quiet, and he died in this village on February 15, 1880.

CHAPTER XXII.

METHODIST CHURCH.

SOME time in the spring of 1797, a strange-looking, uncouth, uncombed youth, about nineteen years of age, came shuffling into town on horseback, and, according to the custom of those times with men of his profession, put up at the house of Elias Thomas. Lorenzo Dow was the name of this youth, and he was born in Coventry, Conn., on the 17th day of October, 1777. Through various trials, through inward wrestlings and warrings and fightings against the flesh, besides strifes beyond number with neighbors and with foes amongst even his own household, his mind had become fixed in the belief that he had a call to preach the Gospel. It was on the 9th of November, 1795, that this belief ripened into full resolve to enter upon the work speedily, and that he saw himself, as in a vision, shaking from the branches of a tall plant placed in his hands by some invisible power, the "beautiful speckled red seed," which he then covered up in the ground with earth and rotten leaves. Two months later he began his toilsome round of labors in the sacred cause, meeting many hard buffets at every step, but, sharpest trial of all, pursued by the bitter hostility of many of his own denomination.

In the first year of his travels he passed over large portions of New England and some parts of New York, beating about in all directions and exposed to every kind of hardship, yet sustained by an inward fire that kept up a perpetual supply of strength against all the waste of unremitted toil. One day in December, 1796, he reached Brattleboro in his rounds, having, on the way to that place, taken a severe cold which nearly lost him his voice. On account of his sufferings, his friends here would persuade him not to keep an appointment a long distance off among the mountains. But never to miss an engagement was a rule of action he had already laid down for himself, and he determined in this case not to disappoint the people. In a hard snow he traveled over the mountains a distance of ten miles, and preached; then kept

on his way to another place, still further off, though the snow was now knee-deep, and frequently the drifts in the road were so high he was forced to get off his horse and tread a path through before him. Upon reaching the appointed place, he found a good gathering there for the weather, and did not grudge the cold and toil of the journey.

Pursuing his travels through the winter, he came the following spring to Hanover, where his sister was then living, with his mind made up to stay there and rest a while. But to such a nature as his, rest was out of the question. Presently he was on the move again; and from Hanover passed up Connecticut River, preaching in Lyme, Orford, Tunbridge, Chelsea; then, turning down the river, he came to Hartford, and, striking into the valley of the Quechee, kept up the stream till he found his way to Woodstock. As yet, Methodism was unknown in this valley; but here was a young man resolved to be heard, with mind all made up to scatter the good seed, if not as a Methodist, then at least as a "friend of mankind." Very unattractive, it is true, were the manners of this "friend of mankind," and those hostile to him among his own persuasion described him as "in habit and appearance more filthy than a savage Indian." Furthermore, his voice was harsh, his style of delivery rude and illiterate, and much that he said was, to the critical ear, no better than rhapsody. But, for all these drawbacks, people gathered to hear him, for there was something about the young man's speech which laid fast hold on the hearers. Manifest in all his endeavors were an earnestness of manner bordering on vehemence, and a tenacity of purpose which convinced men of his devotion to the cause he had engaged in, and took captive the hearts of the multitude.

Arrived at Woodstock, Dow held a meeting in the court-house, which was well attended. He left an appointment to come again in two weeks. Punctual to the time, he made his appearance, and at the close of the meeting begged the privilege of coming again at the end of another two weeks. But at this point some of the influential men in the parish interfered. They did not like the manner or the doctrines of this new preacher, and they feared his influence. Elder Kendrick, the Baptist minister, rose in the meeting, and said he decidedly objected to Mr. Dow's preaching, and should move to refuse any further countenance to his

labors among this people. Elias Thomas, a man of strong religious preferences, seconded Elder Kendrick. The objections and remonstrances of these two men prevailed, and thereupon Mr. Dow was refused the further use of the court-house. How keenly the hostility of these men was felt and resented by the young preacher he made evident, on leaving the court-house, by scraping the dust from his shoes on the threshold, as a memorial against them. After this he went straight to the house of Mr. Thomas, where he was stopping, and, though it was now late in the evening, he called for his horse. Mr. Thomas begged him to stay over night, at least; but no, was his answer, he would not remain longer in a neighborhood where such an unchristian spirit had been shown towards him. Before departing, however, he kneeled in prayer with the younger children of the family, and asked the blessing of Heaven on *them*.

More than twenty years passed away, and Mr. Dow had become a famous, though still remaining a very eccentric, preacher. He was attending a camp-meeting in the eastern part of the State of New York. It so happened that a son of Elias Thomas, passing by that way, fell in with him, and invited him to preach once more in Woodstock. "I will visit your place one year from to-day," was the answer. Punctual as of old, the preacher kept his appointment to a day, and found free entrance at the court-house. As the gathering was too large for that place, the Congregational Church was opened to him, and the elder held forth in triumph.

Such was the beginning of Methodism in Woodstock. It gained strength steadily from the time Mr. Dow made his first visit here, spreading by degrees over the hills and through the south part. Elder Asshur Smith, Elder Evans from Enfield, N. H., and Elder Bishop, were among the first Methodist preachers in this village. Elder Bishop preached at the Denison place. Elders Evans and Smith used to preach at the south part, and they organized or collected the church there. Previous to their coming, Dr. Cheever, of Hartland, used to preach all about the neighborhood; and when Evans and Smith appeared, they came first as "New Lights," and not as Methodists, and the three preached and labored together; but when Evans and Smith came out Methodists, Cheever separated from them. It would appear as though Bishop was the first man on the Methodist cir-

cuit in this town. When the Methodist Church started in the south part, twelve Congregationalists went over to them.¹

About the year 1807, the Methodists felt strong enough to build a church. They bought a small piece of land in the South Parish of Elijah Harlow and William M. Lord, situated near the present burial-ground. The deed was made out to John Ransom, Jonathan Crooker, Benjamin Mack, Elisha Lord, and Seth Sterlin, Trustees of the Methodist Society of the South Parish, but contained a reservation of a piece of ground within the limits of the premises conveyed, which was to be used as a burying-yard by all persons who might wish to inter their dead within the same, under the direction of the Methodist trustees.² On this land a house was put up, a cheap building, clapboarded, but not painted; having a square roof, and looking much like a large schoolhouse. The financial affairs of this society do not seem to have been well managed. It got into debt, and borrowed about sixty dollars of a Mr. Fairbanks, a peddler by occupation, but adding to his regular business the part of itinerant preacher to some extent. Mr. Fairbanks took his security on the meeting-house. The society which worshiped in the house did not continue active; the house stood vacant for a long time, and finally was burnt down, to the great relief of some parties.

Though the society in the south part failed to keep up a distinct organization for any great length of time, the Methodists as an order did not lose ground in the town, but as the town increased in population their numbers increased likewise. In the North Parish no church was built for some time. Meetings were generally held in dwelling-houses, and on the more important occasions in the court-house. One of the first places for holding meetings was at the house of Captain David Thomas, where Elder Bishop sometimes held forth, being the same place where Judge Denison afterwards lived. Under such circumstances preaching was sustained for many years, and the spirit of Methodism kept alive through the labors of itinerant and local preachers, till the year 1835, when the society, now having become considerably enlarged, resolved to erect a commodious church in some convenient spot on the Green. John Blish had bought a small piece of land of General Lyman Mower, southwesterly of the general's house-lot, and bounding on the Common. This

¹ Mrs. Jasper Hazen, January 14, 1871.

² *Land Records*, vol. v. page 319.

land Blish, on the 5th day of March, 1836, deeded to Hosea Healey, of Hartland, Pliny Church, Jared Thompson, and Abial Tripp, of Woodstock, stewards of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Woodstock Station. On this ground the trustees of the church — namely, Benjamin Mack, Pliny Church, Hosea Healey, Otis Marsh, Jared Thompson, Cephas Blossom, Warren Fish, Ariel Edgerton, and Amos Robinson — contracted with some parties to build the same season a chapel or house for public worship. The house was to be fifty-six feet in length, and forty-four feet in width, of wood; the frame to be well timbered and well secured for such a building, with king-posts and principal rafters; the clapboards were not to be more than three inches to the weather; in the front gable was to be a triangular recess of about eight inches deep, sealed, and in size and proportion as marked on the plan of the elevation of the building.

The foundation of the house was to be laid eighteen inches below the surface of the ground at the front of the building. A basement story was to be built seven feet and ten inches high in the clear, two feet and six inches of which were to be of stone, and four feet and four inches of wood. The contract included also the grading and clearing and smoothing of the ground in front and rear of the house.

This building, as thus constructed, served the purposes of the church and society till the year 1865. In the summer of that year it was entirely made over and virtually reconstructed, and greatly improved both in its external appearance, and in the comfort and convenience of the interior part of the house. As thus improved, the new Methodist Episcopal Church in this village was dedicated on Thursday, the 9th day of November, 1865, the services being as follows: —

1st. Chant by the choir.

2d. Invocation by Rev. G. F. Wells, of Bethel.

3d. Reading of the 967th hymn, by Rev. W. D. Herrick, of East Barnard, and singing.

4th. Prayer by Rev. Dr. Clement, of the Congregational Church in this village.

5th. Anthem.

6th. Reading of the Scriptures, 2 Chron. vi. 18–33, and Heb. x. 19–27, by Rev. W. H. Wright, of Barnard.

7th. Reading of the 970th hymn, by Rev. Moses Kidder, of the Christian Church in this village, and singing.

8th. Sermon by the pastor, Rev. Ira Le Barron, who took for his text Haggai ii. 9: "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of Hosts."

9th. Dedication of the house by the pastor.

10th. Anthem.

11th. Benediction by Rev. Dr. Clement.

In the summer of 1877, mainly through the labors of the Rev. Mr. Boutwell, a bell was secured for the church, at a cost of two hundred and seventy-five dollars. The money was raised by subscription, and the bell purchased at the McNeely Bell Foundry, West Troy, N. Y. It was rung for the first time Tuesday evening, at 6.45, December 11, 1877. .

About the year 1852, a parsonage was erected on Mountain Avenue. This was thoroughly repaired and made over in 1882.

The Methodist Conference has been entertained by Woodstock twice,—June 18, 1851, Bishop Janes presiding; May 1, 1878, Bishop Gilbert Haven presiding.

In 1883 the membership of the Methodist Church was one hundred and sixty-seven.

The following is a nearly correct list of the several ministers who have officiated as pastors since the year 1833:—

Rev. A. Campbell 1833	Rev. C. Fales 1855
Rev. Mr. Scott 1834	Rev. L. C. Dickinson . . . 1857
Rev. S. Quimby 1835	Rev. A. L. Cooper 1859
Rev. A. G. Button 1837	Rev. Albert L. Pratt . . . 1861
Rev. Z. Twitchell 1838	Rev. Joshua Gill 1863
Rev. Russell H. Spaulding . 1839	Rev. Ira Le Barron 1864
Rev. Mr. Copeland 1841	Rev. P. Merrill 1865
Rev. W. J. Kidder 1842	Rev. A. C. Stevens 1868
Rev. Lewis Hill 1843	Rev. N. W. Wilder . May, 1870
Rev. A. V. Howard 1844	Rev. A. M. Wheeler 1873
Rev. A. V. Howard and Rev.	Rev. J. W. Guernsey . . . 1875
Mr. Wells 1845	Rev. O. M. Boutwell . . . 1876
Rev. I. H. Patterson . June, 1846	Rev. T. P. Frost 1878
Rev. J. W. Spencer 1848	Rev. L. L. Beeman 1881
Rev. C. W. Kellogg . June, 1849	Rev. A. J. Hough 1882
Rev. D. Field 1851	Rev. A. H. Webb 1883
Rev. S. G. Kellogg 1852	Rev. Joseph Hamilton . . 1886
Rev. Z. Haynes 1854	

CHAPTER XXIII.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

COMPLAINTS had arisen in the Congregational Society in the North Parish some time previous to the year 1825, which were deemed by some not without foundation. The clergyman was not very well paid, and therefore did not give all his time to his parochial duties, and this negligence on his part produced a corresponding indifference on the part of his people. He did not go to meeting till some time past the hour for commencing the service, giving as a reason that his people were not there seasonably.¹ The people were late, because, as they urged, there was no use in being a long time before the minister, and in this slipshod way things went on from year to year. When the pastor was sick and absent the pulpit was poorly supplied. The society and the church did not agree, and it was evident to many that there must be a rupture. The first thing that appeared was a subscription in the summer of 1825 for the preaching of an Episcopal clergyman for a few Sabbaths. In a few days the paper was so filled that the Rev. Mr. Clap, of Bethel, was invited to come, and did come, and preach in the court-house.² Sometimes, when Mr. Chapin was absent, he preached by invitation in the Congregational Meeting-house. As there was very little difference in the doctrines of the two, many did not then look upon the engagement of Mr. Clap, and did not contemplate the settlement of an Episcopal minister as an event that was likely to cause any particular difficulty. However, among those who felt aggrieved there were a few who, when called upon to take

¹ As bearing on this point see *Woodstock Observer* for December 19, 1820, for some instructive remarks about going to meeting at the ringing of the bell.

² Mr. Clap's second effort at preaching in this village was by way of a lecture read at the court-house, Wednesday evening, November 23, 1825, and the fol-

lowing Sunday he preached at the same place.

"Will preach a lecture."

Observer, November 22, 1825.

In the *Journal of the Convention* for 1826, it is stated that services were first held in the parish of St. James on the 20th of November, 1825.

sides, found themselves involved in some perplexity. They considered that the society was too small to be divided. They knew that the people who were about founding a new society were for the most part not Episcopalians, but, laboring under a feeling that they had not been properly treated in the old society, were wishing another; and it did not matter so much what it was, provided it was but another and a new one. They furthermore felt assured, if the aggrieved parties remained united, at no distant day they would have an opportunity of being heard, and might have their wrongs redressed, as the church would certainly be disposed to have the society pleased. However, it was the unalterable resolution of some of the neighbors that a new society should be formed, and in process of time arrangements were made for the building of a church.¹

As growing out of this movement, the Parish of St. James Church in Woodstock was organized March 27, 1826.

The chief promoters of this movement were Lyman Mower, Justus Burdick, Darius Blake, Abraham Stearns, and others.²

The Rev. Joel Clap was chosen the first rector, and he continued to officiate till July 15, 1832, when he gave up the charge of the parish, and was succeeded by the Rev. Benjamin C. C. Parker, who was instituted rector by Bishop Hopkins the 9th day of October, 1833. During the pastorate of Mr. Parker occurred the revival in the Congregational Church under the preaching of Rev. Jedediah Burchard, who came here February, 1835. At the time of this revival there was the most hearty union and coöperation of the two churches in carrying on the work, attributable in some measure at least to the influence of Mrs. Burchard, who was by profession an Episcopalian, and a woman of most noble Christian character. The church received as the fruit of this revival nearly forty persons into its communion. Dr. Parker continued in charge of the parish till May, 1839, when

¹ Derived mainly from statement of Norman Williams made in 1825.

² In the annual address of Bishop Griswold to the Convention assembled at Bristol, R. I., September 27, 1826, occurs this passage: "In my tour through Vermont in June last, accompanied by my Rev. brethren Leonard and Clap, I visited for the first time a Parish newly formed in Woodstock, where I passed the fifth Sunday

after Trinity, June 25th. The kindness and hospitality with which we were received and entertained, and still more the prospects of a good parish in that place, were highly gratifying.

"I preached three times, confirmed twelve, and for the first time according to our mode, the Communion was administered."

he resigned, that he might be able to give exclusive attention to the high-school which that year he opened in this village, in the building which he had erected for that purpose on his own premises. The Rev. John Grigg succeeded Dr. Parker, remaining, however, but one year, when Mr. Clap was called once more to take charge of the parish, and resumed his connection with it June 12, 1840. Mr. Clap was a hard-working clergyman, and the church prospered fairly under his care. He continued its pastor till December 1, 1847, and then closed his labors in Woodstock.

The next settled minister was the Rev. M. A. Herrick, who came December 6, 1847, and remained till February, 1861. He then received a call to Tilton, N. H., where he labored till his death, October 31, 1875. Aside from attention to his parochial duties, Mr. Herrick was exceedingly fond of books, and gave much time to the reading of patristic lore, and in general to the pursuit of such branches of literature as he could take up with facility. His early education had been deficient, and the lack herein he endeavored to make up, in his more mature years, by diligent reading. He was succeeded by the Rev. Joseph N. McIlwaine, who took charge of the parish October, 1861, and remained till July, 1866, when he resigned his charge, the resignation taking effect the following September. Mr. McIlwaine was a very good preacher, and a man of agreeable manners and pleasant conversation. From here he went to Houghton, Mich., which is in a mining section on the borders of Lake Superior, where he remained about a year, then returned to the east, and since his return the field of his labors has been mainly in this State and the State of New York.

After Mr. McIlwaine's departure the parish was without any but occasional preaching till July, 1867, when the Rev. Roger S. Howard, of Rutland, received a call at a salary of \$1,000, which he accepted, and remained rector of the parish for two years. At the end of that time, yielding to the earnest solicitations pressed upon him to take charge of the school at Northfield, he resigned his situation, the resignation to take effect in June, 1869, at which time he removed to Northfield, to become rector of St. Mary's Church in that place, and President of Norwich University.¹

¹ Dr. Howard was settled last at Webster, Mass. He died at his residence in Greenfield, Mass., Friday morning, April 16, 1880. On the Sunday morning fol-

In February, 1870, the vacant place was supplied by Rev. James O. Drumm, deacon, who continued in charge of the parish just two years. James A. D. Hughes, a graduate of Dartmouth College in the class of 1868, was now engaged to preach through the summer of 1872, and continued, with perhaps some intermissions, to serve the parish in this capacity till October, 1873, when he went to Philadelphia.

In the month of December, 1874, Rev. N. G. Allen was settled as minister of St. James, and remained three years, when he was succeeded by the Rev. Francis W. Smith, the present incumbent, who entered on charge of the parish, November 1, 1877.

At first, the congregation met for services in the court-house, where in the month of November, 1825, according to public announcement, Rev. Joel Clap preached for the first time in this village. Afterwards he preached occasionally in the Congregational Church on Sundays when Mr. Chapin was absent. In October, 1826, Abraham Stearns, John A. Pratt, and Justus Burdick, committee, issued proposals for the "building of a CHURCH 46 by 62 feet: The walls to be made of stone, 25 feet high, and to be completed in the course of next season." The stone was drawn, but the plan of building the church of this material was changed, and it was decided to build it of wood. The church was finished the following season, and was opened for Christmas services Monday evening, the 24th of December, 1827, the Rev. Mr. Clap having charge of the same. Sunday morning, the 28th day of September, 1828, the church was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Griswold, assisted by the reverend clergy of the diocese. An observer or a participant in the exercises of the day

lowing, Rev. Mr. Smith, rector of St. James, in a tribute to the memory of this worthy man, remarked: "Wherever he was, Dr. Howard's ministry was characterized by great activity and great success. With a form noble and impressive and a manner peculiarly winning and persuasive, his personal influence was strongly felt, and large additions were everywhere made to the membership of the churches under his care. The record of his labors in this parish is quite remarkable. During the two years of his pastorate no less than forty-one persons, mostly adults, were baptized, and thirty-

seven were confirmed. For some time past I have been anticipating a visit from him, and many of his old friends I know were looking forward to the pleasure of meeting him here again. But his earthly work is ended, and we shall see his face no more. We cannot fail, however, always to retain in loving memory his many noble qualities, both as a man and a clergyman. We will not soon forget, I am sure, his ever cordial and affectionate manner, and his unfailing zeal and devotion to the work of the Christian ministry."

made the remark that "it is very pleasing, at least to the true churchman, to notice the very liberal manner this church has been built and finished. We trust the work has originated in no spirit of hostility or intoleration towards other persuasions, but in a desire to enjoy the instructions of Christianity as settled at the Reformation by some of the wisest and best of our English ancestors, and by the noblest of martyrs upon the model of the most primitive ages of our faith." In the afternoon of the same day Rev. Benjamin Hale, Professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy in Dartmouth College, was admitted to the order of Deacons.

An organ was set up in the church the year it was built, which with some repairs remained in use till 1868, when it was replaced by a larger and better instrument purchased at Albany, N. Y., under the supervision of Mr. Luther O. Greene, of Mr. William Jackson, at a cost of sixteen hundred dollars.

In 1854 the parish bought for permanent use as a parsonage the building and lot on Church Street which had been occupied for several years previous by the rector. The building, originally erected by Orlando Sargent in 1830, has been repaired and much improved in later times.¹

In August, 1834, a Ladies' Charitable Society was formed, for which a constitution was drawn up by Mrs. Frances I. Parker and adopted by the society. One of the principal objects of this society was to assist in the support of the parish, and to further the benevolent objects of the church. The energetic labors of this society have been the means of raising much money for parish purposes, and have been productive of a great deal of good at home and abroad. The first president of the society was Mrs. Frances I. Parker, wife of the Rev. Dr. Parker, rector of the parish at the time. It may be further added that the constitution adopted at the organization of the society remained in force for over fifty years, when a new constitution was proposed for adoption in its stead, of a somewhat different character from the old, under modified notions as to what were the proper objects the society should have in view.

¹ House and outbuildings underwent extensive repairs and improvements in the fall of 1886.

REV. JOEL CLAP.

In the month of March, 1793, Joshua Clap removed with his wife from Worcester, Mass., and settled in Montgomery, Vt. Here, on the 14th day of the next September, Joel Clap was born, being the first white child born in the town. When twelve years old, in company with several other children of Montgomery, he was baptized by the Rev. Mr. Farwell, an Episcopal clergyman, at East Berkshire. He prepared for college, and at the age of seventeen entered the University of Vermont at Burlington; but the sudden death of his father in the fall of 1810 compelled him to give up his university course. But still he did not lay aside his purpose of taking up one of the learned professions; and having completed his preparatory course, he began the study of the law in the office of Stephen Royce, Jr., at Berkshire, in 1813, was admitted to the bar of Franklin County in 1815, and directly after entered into partnership with Mr. Royce. It was about this time that a movement was made by certain persons to organize an Episcopal Church at Sheldon. Mr. Clap assisted efficiently in this movement. The church was established the seventeenth day of August, 1816, and recognized by Bishop Griswold on the twentieth of the following month. About the same time he was married to Miss Abigail Peckham, daughter of Josiah Peckham, of Sheldon.

Not finding the practice of the law congenial to his feelings, Mr. Clap soon decided to give it up, and his law office was finally closed in 1818. He now turned his thoughts to the ministry, and entered upon his theological studies with the Rev. Abraham Beach, then rector of the Episcopal Church in Sheldon. He at the same time served the church at Montgomery, his native place, as lay reader, and in various other ways labored in behalf of the church with an unwearied mind and a cheerful heart. He was ordained a deacon by Bishop Griswold at Greenfield, Mass., October 2, 1818, by whom he was elevated to the priesthood the 7th day of September, 1819, at Windsor.¹ About this time the people of Shelburne, who had got into some controversy among themselves over the "minister's lot," applied to Mr. Clap to come and settle there, on condition he should convey the lot to the town for the benefit of all orders of Christians. To this arrangement

¹ Authorities differ as to the place. I follow Dr. Hicks's statement.

he consented, and was settled at Shelburne October 27, 1819. Under his charge the Episcopal Church was reorganized, taking the name of Trinity Church, and by his good management increased considerably in numbers.

While residing in Shelburne, Mr. Clap did much missionary work in other towns, including under his care the parishes of Berkshire, Montgomery, and Bethel, besides preaching occasionally in Woodstock. November, 1827, he resigned his position in Shelburne, and accepted the joint rectorship of the parishes in Bethel and Woodstock. The charge of the parish in Bethel, however, he relinquished early in the summer of 1830, after that date giving his whole time to the church in Woodstock till 1832. He then resigned and went to Gardiner, Me., to take charge of Christ Church in that town. After laboring in Gardiner for seven years, he was induced to come once more to Woodstock. Troubles had arisen in the church here, which it was thought his presence might remove. He therefore accepted the call extended to him, and resumed his connection with the church in Woodstock in 1840. It was during the second period of his service in this town that he lost his estimable wife, who died the 20th day of March, 1845. January 27, 1847, he married for his second wife Miss Sarah Hubbard, daughter of Isaac Hubbard, Esq., of Claremont, who survived him.

On the first of December, 1847, once more Mr. Clap severed his connection with the church in this place, and took the rectorship of Immanuel Church at Bellows Falls. Here he remained several years, till at length having removed, about the year 1858, to the diocese of New York, he was instituted rector of St. Philip's Church in the Highlands at Phillipstown, opposite West Point, where he remained two years. Desiring about this time a place better suited to his advanced age, he was appointed to the post of Chaplain and Superintendent of the Home for the Aged and Orphans at Brooklyn; but his health proving unequal to its duties, he withdrew after a few months, to take once more the rectorship of the parishes in Montgomery and Berkshire, in his native State. So it happened that he closed his work as a preacher just where it was first taken up forty-two years before. His former parishioners rejoiced to see him again ministering in the old spot, after all those wanderings in which he had spent a busy life; but the joy was brief. Being called to Claremont, to the burial of his

aged parents-in-law, who were separated but a few days in their decease, he was himself taken with illness, which in little more than a week caused his death on the 24th day of February, 1861. The funeral services were performed by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Chase. He is buried at Woodstock beside the remains of his first wife.

Outside of ecclesiastical matters, Mr. Clap, during his residence in Woodstock, was esteemed by all classes as a man of upright mind, zealous in the cause of temperance, education, and every interest that tended to serve the general good, and was honored and respected accordingly.

Mr. Clap left six children, all of whom were the issue of the first marriage; namely, two sons, Charles and George, and four daughters, Mary, Harriet, Amelia, and Julia.

Concerning Dr. Clap's family a few words may be added:

Charles Barnard married Mercy Swan, of Gardiner, Me., where they still live. They have one daughter and one son, both married.

Mary M., not married. She had lived with her brother George for several years, and was with him at the time of his death. Since her return she has lived in New York, and has made her home at the Buckingham Hotel, where she had often been before with her brother.

Harriet E. married William S. Baker, of Dunham, P. Q., where they have always lived. She has six children living, three married.

Julia A. married Caleb Stevens, of Pittston, Me., and is still living in that town. She has four children, — one daughter married.

Amelia Griswold married William Moore, of New York. After her husband's death she removed to Huntington, L. I. She left three children. One daughter is married. The youngest, a son, has lived, since his mother's death, with his aunt, Mrs. Stevens; he is now twenty years of age.¹

George Peckham married Desier Alstyn Prior, of New York. He had been in business in New York for several years previous to his marriage. He died in Algiers, Africa, January 25, 1884. He had been suffering from severe rheumatism and neuralgia during the fall and winter, and was advised to go from Paris to

¹ Mrs. Moore died at Huntington March 9, 1872, and is buried at Woodstock.

Algiers for a milder climate. He was tolerably comfortable on his arrival in the morning, but died the same night from apoplexy. He was buried in Algiers. Mrs. Clap [his wife] died in September, 1881.¹

¹ For the matter concerning Doctor more fully appear by her letter to me Clap's family, as given above, I am indebted mainly to Mrs. Joel Clap, as may dated the 24th of September, 1885.

NOTE. The following are the Articles of Association drawn up and signed on November 28, 1825:—

We the subscribers, inhabitants of Woodstock and its vicinity, do hereby voluntarily associate and agree to form a Protestant Episcopal Society by the name of "The Parish of St. James' Church," in Woodstock, for the purpose of supporting a minister of the Protestant Episcopal order according to the 1st Section of an Act entitled, "An Act for the Support of the Gospel," passed October 26, 1797. In witness whereof we have hereunto severally set our hands. Dated at Woodstock, November 28, 1825. Said support to be raised by subscription.

R. S. Bridge,
John S. Gallup,
Abraham Stearns,
John P. Richardson,
Royal Blake, Jr.,
Thomas Danforth,
Edmund S. Hayden,
Knight Whitmore,
Benj. Metcalf,
James Fisher,
Evander Grannis,
Asa Jones, Jr.,
Geo. C. Hammond,
Robert Henry,
John W. Bradley,
Luke Parsons,
Geo. W. Rice,
Chas. Williams,
Otis L. Gibson,
Wm. Rice,
John W. Blodgett,
Robert Barker,
Joseph A. Gallup,
Lyman Mower,

Justus Burdick,
Amos Warren,
O. D. Richardson,
Lewis F. Gallup,
Israel B. Richardson,
Cyrus Blake,
Loring Richmond,
Jonas Cutting,
John A. Pratt,
John D. Powers,
David Watson,
Hiram Cutting,
Marshall Mason, Jr.,
David A. Winchester,
Geo. P. Williams,
Hiram Tracy,
Willard P. Gibson,
Nathaniel Head,
Lewis Darling,
Jonathan Weymouth,
Geo. Wilder,
Jonathan Taylor,
Henry Taylor.

CHAPTER XXIV.

"THE FIRST CHURCH IN WOODSTOCK."

THE early settlers of this town, retaining still something of the spirit of the Pilgrim fathers, regarded the religious observance of the Sabbath as of the first importance. Bringing with them on this subject the feelings and views that prevailed in the lower parts of New England, they looked upon church-membership as certainly to be expected of those who had been brought up in religious ordinances by pious parents, and as something quite necessary for persons who were to occupy places of public trust. Attendance therefore upon the sanctuary on the Lord's Day, when and where practicable, was a duty not to be neglected by any, and to make some provision for this would be one of the first public acts of the town. Accordingly, during the first week in September, 1774, the following warning for a town meeting of the inhabitants of Woodstock might be seen posted beside the door of Joab Hoisington's inn in said town: —

"Whereas application has been made to me by the overseers of the Poor and other Inhabitants of the Town of Woodstock to Call a Town Meeting — These are therefore to notify and Warn the freeholders and other Inhabitants of s^d Town to assemble and meet at my Dwelling House on Tuesday the 13th day of September Instant at 2 o'clock afternoon to act on the following Particulars (viz) first to choose a moderator to govern s^d meeting — 2nd to see if the Town will Join with Hartford and Pomfret to hire preaching for a term of time 3rd to Choose a Committee to meet the Committees from other Towns and do the business then thought Proper. 4th to see if the Town will build a house to meet in and Do other Town business 5th to act on any Other affair then thought Proper

Woodstock Sept^r 3rd 1774 Joab Hoisington } Town Clerk "

The record of the proceedings of the meeting under this warning is as follows: —

"Being met at the time and place Agreeable to the Warrant Proceeded in the following manner

1st Voted Lieut John Strong moderator

2nd Voted to hire M^r Aaron Hutchinson for five years in Connection with Hartford and Pomfret

3rd Voted Doct^r Stephen Powers Joab Hoifington and John Strong a Committee 4th Voted to adjourn the meeting until thursday next two o'clock afternoon being met at time and place Agreeable to the Adjournment. Voted to Defolve the Meeting

Attest Joab Hoifington } Town Clerk."

The vote, passed as above, to hire Mr. Hutchinson, did not go into effect till two years after this time, although in the interval he must have performed some ministerial work in the neighborhood. But in the month of July, 1776, he moved his family from Hebron, Mass., where he then resided, to the adjoining town of Pomfret, and from that time officiated for five years as preacher for the three towns of Pomfret, Hartford, and Woodstock, giving to each town an equal share of time and labor. During this period, so far as Woodstock was concerned, the whole town was his parish, and all its inhabitants were embraced in his congregation; but there was an ecclesiastical body besides, made up of persons who brought their church-membership with them into this wilderness, which, though not regularly organized, or established by council, went by the name of "Mr. Hutchinson's Church." It embraced among its members the following persons, namely: Benjamin Emmons, Joel Matthews, Samuel Dutton and his wife Rachel, John Strong and Mrs. Strong, Joseph Safford and Martha Safford, Nathan Eddy, John Paddock, John Hurlbut, Stephen Powers and Lydia Powers, Mercy Fuller, Joab Hoifington and his wife Mary, and the wife of James Emerson. One of the deacons of this church was Benjamin Emmons. It maintained some kind of corporate existence for several years, and prepared the way for the establishment of Mr. Daman's church at the close of the period for which Mr. Hutchinson was hired to preach by the town.

"Pursuant to Letters missive an Ecclesiastical Council convened in the North Precinct in Woodstock Dec^r 26th 1781 consisting of The Rev^d Mefs^r

"AARON HUTCHINSON mod^r }
"EDEN BURROUGHS Scribe }

"Delegates Jno Winchester Dana Esq

"Mr David Eaton.

when the Rev^d George Daman was solemnly inducted into the Pastoral office by Instalment. at the same Time the following Persons came in & solemnly renewed their Covenant with God & with one another viz.

“Geo: Daman, Pastor, Benjⁿ Emmons, Joel Matthews, Samuel Dutton, John Strong, Joseph Safford, Nathan Eddy, John Paddock, John Hurlbut, Stephen Powers.

“females

“Martha Safford, Rachel Dutton Mercy Fuller. The following Persons who were not before members of any Chh. being before propounded came in & entred into Covenant, viz

“William Bennett, Jabez Bennett, William Fuller, James Cobb.

“females

“Huldah Darling, Remember Smith, (females signed Dec^r 30th) To this Chh & Council gave the Right hand of fellowship.

“May 5th 1782 The wife of James Emerson, the wife of Dr. Stephen Powers & the widow Hoifington, who were members of Mr. Hutchinsons Chh., came in & renewed their Covenant & were voted members of this Chh.

“June 16th The wife of Capt: Jn^o Strong who was a member of Mr. Hutchinsons Chh renewed her Covenant & was received as a member in full communion.”¹

During the first year after the church was organized, fifty persons were added to it by profession, besides several by letter. These were chiefly the fruit of a great revival which occurred in the settlement in course of the year 1781.

On the 28th of March, 1782, the church convened together to make choice of some persons to officiate as deacons. Several of the congregation, being present, were invited to vote with the brethren, when Benjamin Emmons, Esq., and Mr. Samuel Dutton, were made choice of, who desired time to take the matter into consideration. At this same meeting the opinion of the church was asked as to the age on which persons might be baptized on their parents' faith. The general conclusion was that no set time could be fixed upon, as the capacities of such persons were very diverse; but where children appeared capable of understanding the nature of these covenant transactions and expressed

¹ From “The Reckords of the 1st Church in Woodstock begun Dec^r 26th 1781 ”

a desire of being baptized, it would be proper for them to take the covenant obligations upon themselves; where they did not appear capable of doing this knowingly and understandingly, it would be proper to baptize them on their parents' account.

At a meeting of the church held the 12th day of April, 1782, Dr. Stephen Powers expressed his dissatisfaction at the method of receiving members then so generally followed; insisting that for candidates merely to assent to the profession of faith, without a written or verbal relation, was not sufficient. A committee should be chosen to converse with the person, such committee to make report in public of what the person did say. He did not insist upon a relation of experience as a term, but thought the church should have something from the person expressive of his knowledge, faith, and sincerity. The church, considering the great importance of peace, thought best to comply, and some such plan as the one suggested by Doctor Powers in relation to the matter was adopted by the church at this meeting.

For a period of four years after this time, or until the spring of 1786, matters moved along with comparative smoothness, and the church seems to have been in a prosperous condition for the most part; but in that spring the affair of Deacon Emmons began to create much trouble and confusion, both in the parish and in the church. One of the most exciting topics connected with the troubles then prevailing was the selection of a site for the building of a house of public worship, commonly styled a "Meeting-House." The usual rule followed by the towns in this vicinity was to locate the meeting-house as near the centre of the town as the case would permit; and in accordance with this rule, Pomfret, Hartland, Hartford, Barnard, Royalton, Sharon, and other towns, had their central meeting-house. In Windsor, the geographical features of the town and the superior importance of the eastern part of it, bordering as that part did on the Connecticut River, early suggested the propriety of dividing the township into two parishes, after the manner of many of the towns in Massachusetts and Connecticut. In Woodstock efforts were made in the same direction, and at the annual March meeting for 1779 it was voted "to build a meeting house on the road that goes from Samuel Pratt's to the other road west of Oliver Farnsworth's." Not far from Oliver Farnsworth's was the geographical centre of the town, and at this point a clearing was made for a public lot;

but when it was found that the spot was unpromising and difficult of access from the lack of convenient roads or of chances to build such, the plan was given up, and at a special town meeting, held the 24th of August following, it was voted "to reconsider the vote that was passed the 30th day of March (viz.), to build a meeting house;" and it was further voted, "to divide the Town into two Parishes by a center line through Town east and west, parallel with Town line;" and liberty was given those who lived near said line to go which way they pleased. But this division of the town into two parishes by a centre line from east to west, theoretically very fine, proved practically quite unsatisfactory to the parties concerned; and two years afterwards a change was made, in accordance with a vote in town meeting, by which the parish line was "to begin in the east line of the town where the bound now stands and run from thence northerly on the east line of the town half a mile, thence westerly on a straight line half a mile northerly of the line before run until it strikes Quechee River, then up the river to the west line of the town." Upon petition of the town, the parish lines as thus laid were established by act of the General Assembly passed the first day of March, 1784.

The promoters of the movement by which the town, under act of the legislature, was thus permanently divided into two parishes, were actuated by the best of motives, but the measure itself was not productive of any good. Its tendency was to stir up local prejudices and rivalries among those who were members of the same social and political community, and united by common interests. Yet, under the circumstances, such a measure was deemed necessary by its advocates, in consequence of the law then in force regulating public worship, — a law passed, it was supposed at the time, in accordance with certain provisions contained in the Bill of Rights, yet somewhat at variance with the spirit of our free institutions.

By the year 1788 the difficulties in the church had come to be so widespread and complicated that it was impossible for the members to reconcile them by any measure which they could devise or adopt among themselves. This being the condition of affairs, a council was called of neighboring churches to advise them under their present troubles, which council met on the 12th day of November, 1788, and after some conversation relat-

ing to their difficulties, gave them the following advice: "That they unitedly submit the matter of difficulties to the Rev^d Grafton Presbytery for decision that every Brother dissatisfied shall state his matter of grievance & in such statement shall point out the particular rule he or they apprehend such a Brother or Brethren have broken; & that sd charge shall be communicated to the supposed offender at least 20 Days before Presbytery meet, which being done we mutually agree that said charge shall be considered as brought in a legal way. That Mr. Daman or any of the Brethren who are dissatisfied that act in these matters shall appear in person or appoint a committee to act in their behalf." The church voted their acceptance of this result, and agreed upon a time and place for the Presbytery to meet, which was the first Wednesday in January then next, at the house of Jason Richardson.

On the 7th day of January, 1789, the Presbytery met, and a charge was exhibited against Benjamin Emmons, John Strong, Stephen Powers, and William Perry, and pleaded to, with the following result:—

"WOODSTOCK, Jan'y 7th, 1789.

"The Rev^d Grafton Presbytery being convened by a special request from the Chh of Christ in y^e north parish in this Town, present the Rev^d Mefs^r John Richards mod^r Aaron Hutchinson, Lyman Potter Scribe. Delegates Thomas Russell Esq: Tho^s Moredock Esq: Gideon Smith. The Presbytery opened with a prayer made by the moderator. And then proceeded to take under our consideration a complaint laid in by the Rev^d Mr. Daman & a number of the Brethren, against Benjaⁿ Emmons, John Strong, Stephen Powers & W^m Perry, which is as follows (viz) that they have in their own personal capacities, met & acted with a number of the legal members of this parish & the towns adjacent, & with them formed what they call a religious society, & as such a society have stuck a stake for a meeting house, have chosen a Committee to supply them with preaching, & do usually meet together on Lord's days for publick worship, & have & still do neglect to meet with their own pastor & Brethren, which conduct the complainants take to be directly contrary to the covenant relation subsisting between them & their pastor.

"Having heard the evidences & the remarks made upon the

one side & the other; we consider the matter as follows (viz) that it appears to this presbytery, that inhabitants of different towns meeting together can not be considered as a legal society unless established by act of lawful assembly. with respect to this society which is the subject of the present debate, whether it be legal or not in a civil sense is not for this board to determine: & whether fixing a stake for a meeting house as mentioned in the charge, be done agreeable to rule or not, belongs to another board to determine. but this is what comes under consideration (viz) whether those brethren accused have broken their covenant engagements in any of those articles above specified: which according to the best of our Judgment we consider they have in some degree, as they were united together in a solemn covenant to walk together in Gospel ordinances, & to treat each other upon all occasions agreeable to gospel rule, it therefore became the duty of the brethren aforesaid, if the Rev^d Mr Daman their pastor neglected his duty to them, as a minister or violated the christian bonds he was under to them, to deal with him agreeable to Mat. 15. 16, 17 if thy brother offend go & tell him his faults &c as no Brother has any rite to forsake his Brethren or his minister with whom he is in covenant because he thinks that they or he has done wrong until those steps are taken to bring them or him to a sense of his wrong. & whereas the Brethren aforesaid have not attended to the rules which the gospel here enjoins with their minister, whom they suppose has done wrong, & yet have joyned with a number in setting up publick worship in opposition to or neglect in attending the administrations of their minister, under this view we must consider the brethren aforesaid as violating the plainest rules of gospel discipline. And tho we charitably hope the brethren aforesaid did not wilfully neglect their duty in the instances aforesaid: yet to admit the example without reproof would open a door for the injury of Gospel discipline; not only in this but in other Chh*: we do therefore seriously admonish & reprove these brethren for their forsaking their minister in such an unchristian manner, which in its own nature tends to the ruin of this Chh & to injure the peace & happiness of this town & society: & earnestly enjoin upon those brethren the words of the apostle, 'Let all things be done decently & in order.' we also recommend that those Brethren publickly accepting of this result shall be considered as being in regular standing, which being

done we recommend to the Rev^d Mr. Daman & the Chh under his care, that if those Brethren lay in a petition in a suitable manner for a dismission to any sister Chh in regular standing; it should be granted."

The Presbytery closed with expressions of regret over the unhappy divisions existing in the church, and with exhortations to mutual forbearance in the spirit of the Gospel, that peace might be restored thereby. They also recommended "to the Rev^d Mr. Daman to meet with the people in his parish for divine worship where the major part shall choose, & seem best to accommodate the whole; until such times as this people may in a regular & christian way unite in building a house for that purpose."

On the 24th of February, 1789, the "Rev^d Grafton Presbytery again met in this place when Benjⁿ Emmons, Jno Strong, Stepⁿ Power, & W^m Perrey publicly received the preceeding result; which being done they exhibited the following Complaint viz:

"To the Rev^d Grafton Presbytery.

"We the subscribers are aggrieved with the Rev^d George Daman as follows:

"1. His contentious spirit & conduct relative to a place for a meeting house: 2 Tim: 2, 24 & on

"2. His bringing said parish dispute into the Chh & threatening his Brethren that were of a different sentiment. 1 Cor: 10, 29. Eph. 6, 9.

"3. When the Chh were unanimously of opinion that the dispute belonged to a civil, & not to an ecclesiastical board, he magnified himself against his Brethren, & to their great grief threatned to have a council if he stood alone in it. Zeph: 2, 10. 1 Cor: 8, 12.

"4. His citing us before the venerable Presbytery & earnestly pressing to have us censured for a matter not belonging to that board. Mat: 22, 21. Rom: 14, 16, 17.

"5. His neglecting in a great measure the important duties of his office: while both in & out of y^e parish he has been troubling himself with y^e civil disputes. Acts: 6, 2. 2 Tim: 2, 4.

"6. It appears to us, that in several instances he has abused that power given him for the edification & not destruction of the body of Christ; to worry & Lord it over his Brethren. 1 Pet: 5, 2, 3. 2 Cor: 10, 8—

"7. His partiality: contrary to 1 Tim: 5, 21, in that while

equally a debtor to all, he has closely attached himself to a number of his own sentiments about the place for a meeting house; & neglected all pastoral duties both publick & private towards the rest —

“8. We are sorry to say, we could never in the whole affair discover that pious prudence, Christian forbearance, meekness of wisdom, brotherly kindness &c which we esteem essential to complete the character of a Gospel minister.

BENJⁿ EMMONS

JOHN STRONG

STEPⁿ POWERS

W^m PERREY.

“To this Complaint the Presbytery returned the following result, viz. —

“Agreeable to the request of a Number of the Brethren of the Chh of Christ in Woodstock, The Rev^d Grafton Presbytery met on tuesday y^e 24th of Feb^r 1789 present

Mess^{rs} Aaron Hutchinson

Joseph Bowman

Lyman Potter, mod^r

Sam^l Collins

Elijah Brainard, Scribe

Nabum Sergeant

Joseph Foster Esq.

Mr Gideon Smith

John Weld Esq.

Josh^a Hazen Esq.

Delegates.

“The Presbytery being opened by Prayer, proceeded to take under their consideration a complaint laid in against the Rev^d George Daman signed by Benjⁿ Emmons Esq: Stephen Powers Jno Strong W^m Perrey — — Having attended to the articles of charge, & heard the evidences upon the one side & the other; & giving them all that weight & importance, we think they ought to bare in guiding our judgments in the matter now before us — we do not in the most serious view of the matter conclude that any censurable evil lies against Mr Daman, and though it has been a day of peculiar temptation & trial with him, in which we do not think it strange that some of his expressions & behavior may appear unsuitable to some of his people, yet we earnestly wish that Mr Daman & all parties concerned would consider themselves in a state of imperfection, & mutually agree to forget what is past, & take the advice of the apostle Rom: 12, 18 if it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. & for further advice we direct you to the recommendatory part

of our former result ; dated Jan^{ry} 7th 1789: wishing grace mercy & peace may be multiplied among you, we subscribe ourselves yours to serve.

LYMAN POTTER, *Mod^r*

“ Voted by every member of presbytery ”

The difficulties of the church still continuing, some time during the following year advice was asked from the Presbytery what was best to do under the circumstances, to which request the Presbytery responded, giving such counsel as seemed proper to that body. On the 8th of October, 1790, the church met to consider the above advice, when it appeared that they were not in the least disposed to follow it; but it being proposed that the church should separate from the Grafton Presbytery, the vote was taken by yeas and nays, and not declared, and the meeting was adjourned for a fortnight to consider further of the matter. At this adjourned meeting, when the names of all the brethren were taken that had not removed out of town, they were found to stand thus : —

“ YEAS

Benjⁿ Emmons
Steⁿ Powers
Abel Emmons
W^m Raymond
W^m Perry
W^m Fuller
John Strong
John Saunders
John Hurlbut
Joseph Perry
Elias Thomas
Sam^l Matthews
Elijah Bailey
James Shaw
David Shaw
Simon Davis, 16

NAYS

Lemuel Harlow
Sam^l Dutton
Beriah Smith
Jabez Bennett
Jonas Matthews
Joseph Safford
Seth Washburn
Naⁿ Tinkham
James Cobb
Joel Matthews
Seth Fuller
John Paddock
W^m Smith
Archippus Fuller
James Dunbar
Nath^l Ladd, 16

So that there being found 16 on a side & y^e pastor declaring y^e vote in y^e Neg: this motion was lost.”

November 17, 1790, the church met at William Fuller’s to consider upon their divided state, and to see what the sense of the brethren was on the force of their church covenants, and if

any way could be found out to bring them together once more. At this meeting Jabez Bennett produced a paper, expressing his views of things, in the hope that something might be done "to remove the stumbling blocks," so that the brethren might be brought to unite on some plan. Much altercation and debate arose over this paper, and the parties adverse to Mr. Bennett's views moved for an adjournment of the meeting, to give them opportunity to draw up something expressive of their opinions in the matter, and accordingly the meeting was adjourned a fortnight.

On the 2d day of December, the church having met pursuant to adjournment, Deacon Emmons read a paper before the meeting, but would not consent to have it tried who would sign it. Finally, the brethren were asked round whether they approved of Mr. Bennett's view of the force of the covenant. There were ten who said they did; four who said they did not; and two refused to express their minds on the matter, and the meeting was dissolved.

"May 19th, 1791, The Chh met to consider of their difficulties, when after much conversation upon things, it was voted that they would unite in the choice of a council to hear all their matter, to point out where the fault lies, if any there be, & to give them their best advice what ought to be done under their present difficult & perplexed circumstances. Six Chh^s were chosen on this occasion, viz that at Charleston, Walpole, Lyme, Weathersfield, Rockingham, & y^e Chh at windfor under y^e pastoral care of Mr Shuttlesworth. The time fixed upon was the first wednesday in July next 7 o'clock A. M: to meet at Cap^t Jn^o Strongs. The Chh voted to bear their equal part of y^e expence according to y^e grand list. they likewise chose Dⁿ Dutton, Bⁿ Jn^o Saunders & Jonas Matthews a com^{ee} to assist Capt: Strong in making preparation for y^e council, & then voted to dissolve." ¹

"July 6th, 1791 The Council met & left us y^e following result.

"At an ecclesiastical council convened in y^e north parish in Woodstock, 6th July, 1791, in consequence of letters missive signed by y^e Rev^d George Daman Pastor in the name of y^e Chh. present, Reverend Pastors Thomas Fessenden, Bulkley Olcott,

¹ Church Records.

Samuel Whiting, Dan Foster, & Samuel Shuttlesworth. Delegates Mefs^{rs} Moses Stearne & Jonas Hofmer, Walpole: Capt. Silvanus Hastings & Mr Joseph Willard, Charleston: Mefs^{rs} Ebenezer Fuller & David Stanley, Rockingham: Col. Elijah Robinson & Mr Ahimaaz Sherwin, Weatherfield, & Bryant Brown Esq: Windsor. The Rev^d Tho^s Fessenden was chosen moderator, & Dan Foster scribe. The council being opened by Prayer by y^o Rev^d moderator, went into an hearing of matters referred to them by the Rev^d George Daman, the Chh, & others. After a long & full hearing of all matters from the parties concerned in this parish, and having seriously & maturely deliberated upon them, this council is of opinion, that the differing views, sentiments & conduct of y^o pastor, Chh & aggrieved, concerning y^o place of publick religious worship, have been of very unhappy tendency, & the consequences pernicious to their peace & prosperity. We lament the unhappy disputes & contentions among you, & are grieved to see a Chh of Christ, who is himself the prince of peace, rent & torn to pieces; & wish, most heartily, to be instrumental of healing the divisions here, & restoring peace & harmony among you.

“As matters have been presented to this Council by the parties, we consider them as reduceable to the following heads & questions, viz. first whether Mr Daman & the brethren meeting with him, & the aggrieved Brethren who did not meet with him, as they both acted according to a supposed legal parish vote, were either of them guilty in this different conduct, of violating their Chh covenant. voted in the Negative. — 2. whether Mr. Daman & that part of the Chh who have adhered to him, & also the aggrieved Brethren, have each been guilty, during the difficulties that have arisen in this place, of imprudences & want of Christian Charity, in their treatment of each other? voted in the affirmative.

“Rev^d & Dear Sir, we consider that you have been for several years, under peculiar temptations & trials, which have required the constant exercise of great patience & charity; yet we can not but think from what hath appeared before us, that you have sometimes failed in the exercise of those virtues: & that you have grown too impatient, when some of your brethren have thought & acted contrary to your judgment & disposition in many of their parish & Chh matters. we also think that you have

failed in the exercise of christian candor & charity towards your aggrieved Brethren : that charity which suffereth long & is kind, envieth not, vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, behaveth not itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not soon angry, rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in y^e truth ; that believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things ; that charity which shall flourish forever in immortal vigor, when knowledge & wisdom, & tongues, & prophecies shall cease. we wish you, Sir, to reflect on your past conduct, in those troublesome & exercising scenes through which you have passed, in your serious & retired moments ; & that you would reprove, correct, & amend what hath been amiss.

“ We lament & are much affected, Brethren, with the melancholy & somewhat unusual specimens we have seen in this place, of the imperfection of human nature, & of the power of an heady party spirit, which have been displayed in many instances, ever since the division & contention began here ; particularly in a bitter spirit of strife & dissent, an imprudent separation in Chh & parish, an obstruction of a regular attendance on the worship & ordinances of the Gospel, the management of matters in Chh & parish meetings in a violent & uncharitable manner ; calling in the aid of people of other towns, to support an unwarrantable separation ; employing unqualified & disapproved Characters in gospel ministrations ; infringing in speech & conduct on the common & wholesome rules for the right regulation of civil & ecclesiastical societies ; all which have a direct tendency to destroy that religion, virtue, unity & good order, which have heretofore been y^e praise & glory of y^e New england Chhs.

“ Tho no censurable or disqualifying fault or evil be found in y^e Rev^d pastor of this Chh ; yet considering the unhappy & forbidding situation & circumstances of the people of this parish, which cause every prospect of his future usefulness here to disappear ; this council do recommend that Mr. Daman ask a dismission from his pastoral relation to this Chh & people ; when they shall have settled with him his annual salary, according to contract, from the time of his introduction here to the time when they shall make the full payment to Mr. Daman, or settle with him to his acceptance ; & shall also exempt him & so much of his estate, as is exempted by the statutes of this state in favor of ministers, from taxation, for the full term of ten years from y^e

time of his dismissal. — and if a separation should take place between pastor & people in this parish, we do cheerfully recommend the pastor to the fellowship of all the Chhs, both brotherly & ministerial, & to future improvement & usefulness in the christian ministry, wherever God in his providence shall direct.

“ we do earnestly recommend that a spirit of love & peace be cultivated by all, & that you will manifest a due attachment to the order & ordinances of the Gospel, & that our Brethren of this Chh, & all the members of this parish, would sincerely endeavor to unite in religious sentiment & practice, relative to Chh communion & discipline, so far as possible ; & if a separation should take place between pastor & people in this parish, we recommend it to the Chh & people here to use their utmost endeavors to resettle a regular christian ministry as soon as may conveniently be done.

“ Rev^d Sir & Dear Brethren, we wish you the divine presence, assistance, & blessing, in your wise & prudent endeavors to put an end to dissensions & divisions among you, & to restore peace harmony & friendship. we recommend you to the guardianship & direction of the prince of peace. finally, Brethren, farewell, be of one mind, live in peace ; & the God of love & peace shall be with you

THOMAS FESSENDEN *mod.*

“ The foregoing passed unanimously by council

“ Attest DAN FOSTER, *Scribe*

“ a true copy examined by Dan Foster scribe.”¹

“ In pursuance of this advice the Chh & parish met in parish meeting the 22^d of May, 1792, when the Rev^d George Daman asked a dismissal from his pastoral relation to this Chh & people & the request was granted yeas 29. Nays 24 ”¹

After his dismissal, Mr. Daman still continued to act with the church as “ moderator and leader,” in the words of Mr. Bennett, and to preach for them, till his death in December, 1796. It was still a season of trial for the church, yet the old difficulties were by degrees becoming settled and removed. During this period a separation took place from the Grafton Presbytery, and the church henceforth stood independent ; and when, not long after this time, the constitution or platform was taken into consideration and revived, Mr. Bennett was careful to have inserted that “ it is our opinion that what is called the Congregational plan is the most agreeable to the word of God.”

¹ Church Records.

Following upon the death of Mr. Daman, there was much irregularity in the methods pursued by the church to secure preaching. For some years there was a union with the Baptist Church, then under the charge of Elder Kendrick, but this union does not seem to have been profitable to either party. From 1799 to 1801 Mr. Cheever, of Hartland, preached here frequently. He was a very earnest and faithful minister, and did much good work among this people. After that date, Pliny Dickinson, a graduate of Dartmouth College in the class of 1798, preached for a while to the people as a candidate. In his style he was a flowery speaker, and inclined to be a little gay in his habits and manners, so much so, that the more sober-minded among the church people were not quite pleased, and altogether the impression was not favorable on either side. Finally, Mr. Dickinson went to Walpole, where he was ordained colleague with Mr. Fessenden, March 6, 1805.

About the year 1803, Mr. John Sabine came here to preach, and spent nearly two years in this place. He proved very acceptable to the people, and the church understood they had a claim on him; but the church in Fitzwilliam, N. H., calling for him very earnestly, in compliance with their wishes he was suffered to go,—a proceeding which many here regarded at the time as a great mistake. At length, on the 4th day of December, 1809, the church and society united in extending a call to Mr. Walter Chapin, which was accepted, and Mr. Chapin was ordained pastor of the church April 25, 1810.

When Mr. Hutchinson first began to preach in this town, there being no meeting-house in the neighborhood, the people assembled during cold weather in dwelling-houses, wherever was most convenient, and during the warm season in Joab Hoisington's framed barn, which stood "within six rods to the west" of Judge Hutchinson's homestead. This barn served as a place of worship in mild weather till about the year 1781, when the log meeting-house was built. This was located on the hill-road leading from Mr. Woodward's factory to West Woodstock, a short distance above the house now occupied by Mr. Jaquith, and west or back of the old pound. The spot thus selected was bleak and bare, and after the meeting-house was erected, no other buildings were put up around it; so that if any thought was entertained at the time that this would be a centre for anything besides a place of

assembly for public worship, no such expectation was ever realized. The house had not been used long when the troubles began in the parish over the site for a meeting-house. During the period of the disputes and contentions about this matter, the log meeting-house, either by accident or design, took fire and was partially consumed. Its place was supplied by a small frame building, erected near by, which, after serving the purpose a short time, was removed by William Fuller to a more convenient spot on his farm and converted into a barn.

Another place where a portion of "the 1st Church in Woodstock" worshipped for a while during these troublesome times, was a building of very moderate pretensions which occupied the site of the old court-house on the Common. It fronted toward the south, had a porch over the door, and a shed attached to it, extending westerly from the house. There is little doubt that this is the spot where Benjamin Emmons, John Strong and others, in their capacity of a religious society, "stuck a stake for a meeting-house," as Mr. Daman complained against them before the reverend Grafton Presbytery. The building stood on ground belonging to Captain Richardson, and when the second court-house was erected in 1793 it was removed to make room for that.¹

After these events the church met for public worship, a part of the time, in the court-house, at other times in the West Meeting-house, and by degrees ceased to be a parish institution in any respect, assuming in the records the technical name of "Congregational" as early as the year 1800. About this time a society was organized in connection with the church, and, soon after, the necessary steps were taken "for the purpose of building a meeting-house." From three different sources offers were now made of land on which to build the house: one from Captain Barnes, who wished it located on the west side of the river; one from Henry Mower, who proposed a spot at the head of the Common; but it was finally decided to accept the ground offered by Mr. Charles Marsh. A contract was made with Nathaniel Smith to

¹ Levi Washburn once told me that he often went to meeting in this meeting-house; recollected hearing both Priest Hutchinson and Priest Daman preach there. According to his own remark, "they made the boys go to meeting in

those days." These events occurred while he was bound out to Captain John Strong. He reckoned that Strong, Emmons, Esquire Perry, and Captain Richardson had a hand in the business.



build the house, and the frame was raised on the 4th day of July, 1806. By another year the work was so far completed that the Vermont legislature held their religious services in this house on election day in October, 1807, when the sermon was preached by Rev. Thomas Gross, of Hartford; but the building was not entirely finished till 1808. It was painted outside and within, except the pews, the outside of the body of the house being painted white. From this circumstance it received the title by which it is still known in the community at large, as the "White Meeting-house," or the "Old White."

The meeting-house, or in modern parlance the church, was thoroughly repaired in 1859, and at the same time a convenient chapel adjoining the house was put up, the work being conducted under the charge of Henry Safford, Esq., of Springfield. While the building was undergoing these repairs, society and congregation met for public worship in the Methodist Church, to which they were kindly invited. The renovated edifice was reopened for services on Sunday, October 30, of the above-named year.

Monday morning, April 12, 1880, work was begun on the grounds belonging to the Congregational Church and society, preparatory to building a new chapel. In carrying out the design of erecting this edifice, it was thought best to connect it with the church, and then to these two buildings to connect the old chapel, converting that into a church parlor. H. Hudson Holly, of New York, was selected as architect for the chapel, and the decorations were made under the personal supervision of W. J. McPherson, of Boston. At the same time the grounds about the church were handsomely laid out and graded and fenced in, for the first time since the land was given to the society by Mr. Marsh. The expenses for all these improvements, amounting to over twelve thousand dollars, were met by Mr. Frederick Billings, his intention being to make the whole affair a free gift to the church. By the end of six months the work was finished, and Sunday evening, October 31, 1880, the new chapel was dedicated with appropriate exercises held in the body of the church. From the "Presentation Address" made by Mr. Billings on the occasion the following passage is selected, as explaining the title of "Memorial Chapel" given by him to the new edifice:—

"There is one thing more inwrought here, which I would like to mention, and yet hardly know how to allude to it. It is per-

sonal, but very sacred, and hallows the place to my heart, and to some other hearts, more than all things else. It is the tender, precious, blessed memory of a beloved father and mother. They were members of this church, and the mother was especially faithful to the Tuesday evening meeting. Before the foundations were laid, through all the work to its completion, there have been loving thoughts of the mother and the father. Their faces have been present all the while, are present now. They are beyond anything their children can do for them; and yet the children love to do what they think would please them if here. How much, if still on earth, would their father and mother rejoice in this chapel! No names are written on its walls, but grateful children have built this chapel, and you will forgive them if they always regard it as a memorial of beloved parents."

While our fathers found it a troublesome matter to build houses of worship, how to support the minister after the house was built was a still more difficult thing to handle. Town votes and individual subscriptions, together with charitable gifts, constituted some of the sources of supply for this purpose; in addition, every man's house in those days was open to the minister. But to realize anything on town votes and individual subscriptions, was often slow business for the minister. Major Joab Hoisington, for instance, the largest landholder in the town, subscribed five pounds towards Mr. Hutchinson's salary when he first came to Woodstock to preach; but neither did the major pay the subscription in his lifetime, nor did his estate pay it till years after his decease.

In the mean while no law existed whereby towns might lay taxes on their lists for the support of ministers. But in October, 1783, the legislature passed an act enabling towns and parishes "to hire, or otherwise agree with, a minister or ministers to preach in such town or Parish . . . and to vote such minister or ministers such annual support in money, or otherwise, as shall be found necessary; to be assessed on the polls and rateable estates of persons living, or estates lying within the limits of such town or parish." The North Parish in Woodstock taxed the inhabitants to raise money for settling and supporting ministers agreeably to the provisions of this act. All the records of parish meetings in this "precinct" have, indeed, perished; but a parish tax-bill may now and then be met with, a copy of one of which is given below:—

"A Bill of Taxes for mr daman"

	Lut howland Bill 1783	Elias thomas Bill 1784	Majr Mathews Bill 1785	Capt Samfon Bill 1786
Antaney Besse . .	0-6-9	0- 6-2	0-4-6	0-5-7
timothy Cox . .		0- 9-1	0-6-9	0-8-3
James Shaw . .		0- 5-8		
John Hoifington .		0-14-6		
Nathan Grath . .				0-3-9
the hears of Phinhas Powers				0-4-6

	Nathan Eddy Bill 1787	the last four years
Antaney Besse . .	0-6-4	1-18- 4
timothy Cox . .	0-9-4	1- 8-11
Joseph Churchel .		3- 1- 4
Aaron Randal . .		0- 5- 3

for Mr William Raymond — total 11-5-0 "

This method of raising funds for the support of the minister was followed as long as Mr. Daman remained settled over the parish, but after his day seems to have fallen gradually into disuse. Methods partaking more of a voluntary character began now to be adopted, sometimes assuming the form of an agreement drawn up after the following style : —

"We the subscribers agree to procure preaching the year ensuing on the following Terms (viz) To raise such sum as we find Necessary to be afseised by the Grand List & that the Majority of the Subscribers shall determine who shall be the preacher what the sum to be given & how to be paid.

"Nathl Ladd " (and forty-eight others).

Endorsed on this agreement is the following : —

"Jan^y 16th 1796. the Within Subscribers met at the House of Joseph Churchill Agreeable to the above Adjournment Voted : to Raise one hundred and fifty dollars to be appropriated for hiring preachin to be paid over to the perfon or perfons We shall Imploy or the Committee We shall appoint to Super Intend the bufiness.

Appointed { WILLIAM RAYMOND
JOSIAH DUNHAM
GEORGE THOMAS } Committee "

Sometimes the people got their preaching done in advance, and then made their promise to pay, after quite a period had

passed, as the following would indicate: "We the Subscribers haveing Received the Labours of the Rev^d Gorge Demon for Seven Sabaths in the year 1792 promis to pay the Sums anexed to our Names under Writen and Deliver the Same at By the first of March Next Daited December 18th 1793."

The voluntary system, however, in its practical operation, made slow progress with the inhabitants of this parish. When the "First Congregational Society in the North Parish in Woodstock" was established in 1808, the members bound themselves to pay the sum of three dollars annually for the support of the society so long as they lived within five miles of the meeting-house; and for a period of fifteen years after Mr. Chapin's settlement over the church, in 1810, a regular tax-bill was made out each year against the several members, and placed in the hands of the constable for collection. Another effort made to secure means for the support of preaching which should be more permanent and sure than voluntary aid, was the establishment, in 1808, of a church fund, which, amounting in the outset to twenty-five hundred dollars, has been kept up, without much change or enlargement, down to the present time.

As, for various reasons, the contributions for the support of the minister during the pastorate of Mr. Chapin still continued quite inadequate, various remedies were adopted and various efforts put forth to supply the deficiency. One of these was the formation of what was styled the "Auxiliary Society," the design of which is fully set forth in the following preamble to the constitution of the society, drawn up by Benjamin F. Mower:—

"We the undersigned convinced that the best interests of society are in no way so effectually promoted; and that a strict morality as also the great and momentous cause of religion, are in no way so beneficially disseminated as by that regular and systematic mode of instruction to be had from a religious teacher, who has a fixed and permanent residence in the society over which he presides, do voluntarily affociate for the purposes herein after mentioned.

"And we the undersigned knowing the delinquency which has taken place as to the Salary of the Pastor of the First Congregational Society in the North Parish in Woodstock, through the death, the removal and the inability, of many of those from whom he expected support, when he was first settled in said Society;

and conceiving that the present Pastor, the Rev^d Walter Chapin, through the delinquency aforesaid, is not sufficiently remunerated for the arduous and important duties of the station which he fills, do therefore cheerfully and voluntarily agree to pay the sums annex^d to our names respectively, annually; and form ourselves into a society for the foregoing purposes and in the following manner viz.”

The “undersigned” assembled December 22, 1818, and organized by the choice of officers to regulate the society and put the concern in running order. After being once started it continued to run till about the year 1825, with what success is not known, and finally disbanded.

Another institution, of still more remarkable character than the above, and having a similar object in view, was the Charity Field, so called, started about the year 1820, the nature and operation of which is best explained by the following copy of the original document:—

“We the Subscribers hereby associate together for the purpose of cultivating for two Seasons a field on the farm of Titus Hutchinson in Woodstock; said Field to consist of five acres or from that to eight as shall be thot best when the fence is made round the same, s^d fence to be made of the timber now on s^d land. The s^d land to be cultivated is at the top and nearly at the top of the hill,¹ near Mr. Swans land and Eastward from the Court house common. The first Season it must be fenced, clearing finished. Then ploughed and planted with corn chiefly and some potatoes, and next year to be sown with wheat and s^d Hutchinson to have the privilege of sowing grafs seed with the wheat if he chuses. The avails of s^d field s^d two seasons to be appropriated, one half for the use of the Rev^d Walter Chapin our Pastor, and the other half each year to be disposed of for such charitable object or objects as shall be agreed on by the subscribers at a meeting by them holden after each crop is ready for market. The meeting for that purpose to be warned by a notification signed by any committee or by any three members of this association and posted up at the door of the meeting house in the Court house village one week before such meeting. Now we the Subscribers agree that we will each stand holden to Titus Hutchinson, Charles Dana, Isaac N. Cushman, J. Pratt, Lyman

¹ Mount Peg.

Mower and David Brownson, who are appointed by us a committee to superintend s^d business to do the business and labor or pay the sums for the hiring of labor as the case may be as described by each of us with our signature, and that we will do and pay the same at the time or times set by the s^d Committee or any two of them, we having seasonable notice of such time or times. In testimony of which we hereto severally set our names and describe our labors or sums to be paid.

Titus Hutchinson. The use of s^d land s^d two seasons and a pair of oxen and one man one day in clearing, and the same and large plough one day in ploughing, and a hand a day at each hoeing and reaping.

Lyman Mower, hand to chop one day, oxen to clear & make fens with a hand one day; Oxen and hand to help Plow two days; hand two days to hoe; hand one day to harvest & five Bus. Potatoes to Plant.

Charles Dana — one hand one day Hoeing: hand one day Harvesting & 5 bushel Potatoes to plant.

Benj. Swan — Five Dollars either in cash or labour as I can agree with the committee.

John Pratt three days work.

Charles Marsh Six dollars in labour &c.

Willis Hall 3 days Work

I will pay to parson Chapin three Dollars within six months.
Sylvester Edson.

Simon Warren 3 days labour & 5 Bus Potatoes —

David Bronson, 1 days labor in clearing or planting, and also engage to labour whenever it shall be required, in hoeing, and harvesting s^d crops

Henry B. Dana 3 days Labour of his own kind

Knight Whitmore three days labour —

Burdick & Williams 3 days labor

Isaac Churchill 2 days labor. —

Norman Williams three days labour —

Benjamin F. Mower three days work and one Gallon of Rum, to those that work well one ration, the lazy ones only half a ration

John Logan one days work & find my own Rum

Lewis R. M. Morse 3 days work

Alvares Marsh 1 Faithful Days work .

Samuel Mower one Day dropping corn
 L. A. Marsh 2 days labor
 O. N. Dana 1 Days labour
 Jason B. Downer 2 Days Labour
 John A. Swan one Days work
 David Peirce two days labour
 Hez. Williams 2 days labour
 W^m H. Swan, 2 Days Labour
 Chs Henry 2 Days Labour
 Geo. W. Rice 1 Days work
 David Watson 1 days work
 Robert Barker 2 days labour
 Joseph Parker 1 day labour
 Henry Richardson 1 day labor
 Stilmon Simmons 1 days labor
 Samuel Marcy 3 days work 5 Bus pottoes by A fund to the institution."

The first year the field seems to have been planted with potatoes; the second season it was sown with wheat; and it is interesting to look out upon that field for a moment, and watch the fathers as they are busied in clearing and preparing the ground, sowing and harvesting the wheat, all for the purpose of raising a little means to help support the minister. Titus Hutchinson kept minutes of the work expended by himself and others in sowing the wheat this year, and these minutes are good reading to-day for everybody.

"*Monday, April 15th.* In forenoon I went with H. B. Dana's oxen & I. H. Carpenter and J. Thatcher & picked of brush from Charity Field. In afternoon I harrowed with my oxen & harrow.

"Wednesday I harrowed with H. B. Dana's oxen & my horse & harrow & B. Washburn all day. & Col Mowers oxen horses & harrow all day with Clement. J. Thatcher awhile, and Mr. S. Warren sent up Shaw & Lamphear & Daniels in afternoon to dig elders and Hosea Harris worked nearly all day.

"Thursday we sowed the wheat. It was harrowed in by my horses and Esq. Marshes with my two harrows. R. Washburn & L. Shaw worked all day harrowing, also Esq. Marshes man. Nathan¹ sowed the wheat, Shaws boy for a boundary — I fur-

¹ Nathan Cushing.

nished dinners for all but Esq. Marshes & Col. Mowers men. Also 2 quarts rum.

" *May* 9th. Mended fence in scant half day. Simon Warren with his horse, H. B. Dana, I. H. Carpenter, W. Hall & myself. I found rum.

I had 30 bushels of last years potatoes	7.50
Paid Charles Dana for plowing last y ^r	3.00
Do Paid for Seed wheat	67 3.67
Paid bal. to Mr. Chapin	3.83
Rec ^d B. Swans Subscription in cash	3.00
Paid Shaw for him & boy harrowing &c.	87½ }
Paid I. H. Carpenter for his s ^d work	1.20 } 2.07½
Rum &c may as well balance."	0.92½

All honor to the fathers. Not having bank deposits on which to draw for the support of the minister, they drew for this purpose on potato patches and wheat fields cultivated with their own hands, and, after paying expenses incurred in the business, quietly let "rum, &c.," even up the account.

At some period in the year 1826 several of the ladies connected with the church met in the front room of Major Swan's house, and formed a "Sewing Circle." The original members consisted of young ladies exclusively, with the single exception of Mrs. Burnell, who was the first president. A few years after the "Circle" was established, it became general in its constitution and make-up, enlisting all the ladies of the congregation in its work, and taking on the social character for which it has been distinguished in later times. It has had a continuous and prosperous existence down to the present time, and the funds raised by its labors have been devoted to a variety of purposes connected with the benevolent objects of the day. The avails of its first year's work, \$55.00, were given to the family of Walter Chapin, late the pastor of the church, who had recently died.¹ The receipts for the years 1853 and 1854, amounting to \$247.70, were given to the American Home Missionary Society. It gave liberally toward the purchase of the two organs which have been

¹ "MR. COLTON,

"The subscriber begs leave, through the medium of your paper, to acknowledge

the receipt of FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS from the young Ladies of the Sewing Circle.

"HANNAH CHAPIN.

"Woodstock, Nov. 13, 1827."

set up at different times in the church edifice; and when the renovation of this edifice was undertaken in 1859, it contributed \$1500 towards the accomplishment of the enterprise. These are a few among the many instances of its usefulness which might be named.

After the death of Mr. Chapin, in 1827, Rev. John Richards accepted a call to the pastorate of the church. He was ordained November 27, 1827, and February 11, 1831, was dismissed by a council, pursuant to his request.

After the departure of Mr. Richards, Rev. Rufus A. Putnam occupied the pulpit for nearly a year, during which time there was an extended revival in the church, through which its membership was largely increased and the church itself much strengthened. Then, January 4, 1832, Rev. Robert Southgate, after being examined by council, and — to use language Jabez Bennett recorded with delight — “after giving satisfaction respecting his standing in the church of Christ, his license to preach the gospel and his acquaintance with systematical and practical theology and experimental Religion,” was ordained pastor of the church, and was dismissed by a council, pursuant to his request, October 26, 1836, the church and society much regretting the necessity that the pastoral relation should be dissolved.

The fifth pastor was the Rev. Worthington Wright, installed February 14, 1838, and dismissed by a council, pursuant to his request, September, 1850. For more than two years the church was now without a pastor, and in the interval went through the experimental process of trying a string of candidates, in search of a minister who would satisfy all the varying tastes and fancies of a country congregation. Choice was made at length of the Rev. Jonathan Clement, D. D., who was installed July 14, 1852, and June 16, 1867, was dismissed by a council, pursuant to his request.

Rev. A. B. Dascomb succeeded Dr. Clement as the seventh pastor. His installation took place Thursday, December 5, 1867, and he was dismissed by a council, pursuant to his request, February 3, 1874.

September 10, 1874, Rev. Lewis W. Hicks was ordained as the eighth pastor of the church, and was dismissed by a council, pursuant to his request, on the 13th day of July, 1881. He was succeeded by the Rev. James F. Brodie, who was ordained the

21st day of February, 1882, and is the present pastor of the church.

REV. GEORGE DAMAN.

George Daman was born in Dedham, Mass., August 10th, 1735. He graduated at Harvard College in the year 1756, and received the degree of Master of Arts at the same institution. Choosing the ministry for his profession, he went through the preparatory studies, and was settled over the First Congregational Church in West Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard, in 1760. About this time he made the acquaintance of Miss Dinah Atheorn, daughter of Judge Atheorn, to whom he was married the 14th day of October, 1762. By her he had seven children, all born in Martha's Vineyard. In 1781 he asked permission to resign his charge of the church in West Tisbury, which request was granted, and the same year he removed with his family to Woodstock, where he took charge of the First Church in the North Parish. In consequence of his being the first settled minister of the gospel in the town, he drew the "Minister's Lot."

Besides attending to the duties of his profession, Mr. Daman engaged in several industrial enterprises, and did his part to further the growth and improvement of the town. He continued to preach, though with diminished activity, after he ceased to be the parish minister, up to the time of his decease, which occurred the first day of December, 1796. His funeral was attended on the third day of the month, probably at the West Meeting House. A sermon was delivered on the occasion from Hebrews vii. 23, 24. After the sermon, the procession formed as follows:—

"1st. A select number to carry the corpse at 40 paces in front of the bearers.

"2^d. The bearers fifteen paces in front of the corpse.

"After the Corpse,

"1st. The Mourners.

"2^d. The Clergy.

"3^d. The Church.

"4th. The long train of silent friendly attendants. The whole was conducted with the greatest regularity and decorum."

An elegy inscribed to the bereaved family, and supposed to be pronounced just before the procession moved, was printed in the newspaper, but is omitted here.

Of Mr. Daman's children, Samuel married Miss Alice Marsh, brought up a family of children, and died March 23, 1858. George died unmarried at the age of twenty-two. John, born in 1776, married Miss Nancy Strong, and settled in Cabot. Abigail was married to Colonel Jesse Safford. Betsey was married to Captain David Dutton. Mary was married to the Rev. John Sabin, who was settled over the First Church in Fitzwilliam, N. H., March 6, 1805, and died October 14, 1845. Susannah was married to John W. Dana, of Cabot, the 30th of March, 1802. Mrs. Dinah Daman died March 29, 1811, in the seventy-fourth year of her age.

REV. WALTER CHAPIN.

Walter Chapin was born in West Springfield, Mass., the 15th day of January, 1779. While yet a youth, and engaged in manual labor, he was the subject of those religious impressions which gave sobriety and dignity to his after-life. He was graduated at Middlebury College in 1803, with good reputation as a scholar. Opportunities for improvement at this college were somewhat limited in those days. Considering the abundance of books, periodicals, and the like, with which public institutions of all sorts, and even private dwelling-houses, are filled at the present day, it is a little sobering to be reminded that, when Mr. Chapin graduated, the best that could be said of Middlebury College was, that "it contained a library of 494 well-chosen volumes."

Directly after leaving college Mr. Chapin was made preceptor in the academy at Royalton, and at the same time he began his preparatory studies for the gospel ministry, under the care of Mr. Tullah. After a brief season in Royalton, he went to Springfield, where, under the charge of Dr. Joseph Lathrop, he completed, in due course of time, his study for the ministry. Before passing to other matters, it is proper to mention at this point that in 1804 he was chosen tutor in Middlebury College, resigning the position in 1805. Wednesday, the 20th of August, 1806, he received the degree of Master of Arts at the same institution. He always kept up his connection with the college, and in 1821 was chosen a member of the corporation, holding that office till his death.

Mr. Chapin began his career as a preacher in January, 1805, following the practice so common in those days with beginners,

and going from place to place, wherever there was call to preach. His circuit was wide, extending from the well-cultivated territory of Southern Connecticut to the wilderness in the north part of Vermont; and we hear of him at such places as Cornwall, Middlebury, Northampton, South Hadley, and Suffield. On the 23d day of July, 1807, he started on a mission to the north part of this State, being commissioned by the Hampshire Missionary Society for a period of twelve weeks. In this field of labor he was highly successful, and here he developed those traits of character which made him so useful as a minister, and gave such broad scope to his views when planning for the general welfare of the churches. Yet it may be urged, perhaps with truth, that the deep interest in missionary work he thus early developed, continuing as it did through life, interfered to some degree with his efficiency as a local pastor.

During the period of this missionary tour Mr. Chapin passed through Woodstock once or twice, and was here at the close of his mission of twelve weeks, on the 14th of October, while the General Assembly were holding their session in this town. The sick and suffering he made it a rule to visit wherever he was, and administered to them words of encouragement and comfort, wherein his faculty was rare; and, as illustrating the spirit of the times, it may be added that, while on this visit to Woodstock, about the 14th day of the month, as above, he "preached a lecture" at the house of Titus Hutchinson, for the benefit of Mrs. Hutchinson, who was suffering under severe illness. The acquaintance which he formed at this time with some of the prominent men in Woodstock led to his being engaged to supply the pulpit in the Congregational Church till the middle of December.

During the following summer Mr. Chapin went to Marblehead, where he spent several months in ministerial work. While thus engaged he received a call from the church in Marblehead, and at the same time one from the church in Woodstock. There were sufficient reasons why he should prefer the former place to the latter as a field of labor. Marblehead at that time was a place of some six thousand inhabitants, with a thriving trade, and having one Episcopal church and two Congregational churches. Compared with Woodstock, it offered many inducements to a young and active minister like Mr. Chapin. Reasons

such as these, which with another mind might have turned the scale in favor of Marblehead, had, however, the opposite effect on him. Woodstock he considered the more destitute place of the two; more dull in its religious life, and more needing the services of a faithful preacher of the gospel; a better field for a missionary, such as Mr. Chapin was from the first and continued to be to the close of his life. There were good grounds for his entertaining such a view of the destitution of the town, and its barrenness in religious life. The entire community was in a welter of disputes over matters pertaining to religion, and, in the absence of any recognized leader or guide in such subjects, every man thought and did that which was right in his own eyes. The church, long without a pastor, and depending in the mean time on occasional supplies, and those often of an uncertain color, to fill the pulpit, had taken the complaint that afflicted the church of the Laodiceans, and was exhibiting the insipid spiritual condition consequent upon being neither cold nor hot. Likewise, the excellent Jabez Bennett, who waited on Mr. Chapin at Marblehead with the call of the church in this place, did not hold out any very enticing prospects to a young minister with regard to the situation of things here. He himself stated the situation and the remedy for it in language like the following: "In this day of darkness and declension and particularly many errors and heresies which are hovering in this vicinity it is an incumbent duty on the church to arise and shake themselves from the dust and carefully examine the platform." Yet, in face of all these objections, and with a better chance in reach, if he chose to take it, Mr. Chapin decided at last to accept the call from Woodstock. Accordingly, he was ordained the pastor of the church on the 25th day of April, 1810, and remained pastor till his death, the 22d day of July, 1827.

As a preacher Mr. Chapin was simple and plain in style, and in his manner sometimes very impressive. The truths of the gospel he maintained with great firmness of spirit, inasmuch as he felt, and felt deeply, that morality without religious principle was but the "ghost of departed virtue." Under the influence of this controlling belief, he exhibited earnestly those views of divine truth that formed the groundwork of his own moral character, and from the observance of which, in his judgment, "all just works do proceed." In preaching the gospel, therefore, he

always held up the rule that "to obey is better than sacrifice," and his own example furnished abundant evidence of the fidelity with which he held to this fundamental truth. Guided by this rule, he seemed to be ever hearing those words of command, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." As President Tyler remarked, who preached his funeral sermon: "He possessed in a preëminent degree a missionary spirit. He took a lively interest in the feeble and destitute churches of this State, and was unwearied in his efforts to promote their interests. For seven years he was clerk of the Vermont Domestic Missionary Society, during which time the direction of the concerns of this important institution was committed almost entirely to his hands. In the mean time the cause of foreign missions lay equally near his heart, as is sufficiently apparent from the 'Missionary Gazetteer,' a work of great labor, undertaken and prosecuted for the sole purpose of subserving the cause of missions. To this cause his life was in good degree devoted, and perhaps I might say sacrificed."

In private life Mr. Chapin exhibited a most amiable disposition. He was cheerful in his ways, and very communicative, enlivening his conversation with a delicate pleasantry, which was of such a character that it added weight to the many practical thoughts that fell from his lips. It has been somewhere said of him that "he had studied men more in actual life than in books, and therefore seldom judged erroneously in the common intercourse of life. In the domestic circle he manifested a rare union of firmness with mildness and affection; and, indeed, he seemed to have trained his affections to flow, as it were, spontaneously in the channels which his judgment approved."

The 7th day of March, 1813, Mr. Chapin was married to Miss Hannah Moshier, who was born in Pepperell, Mass., March 20, 1786. They had a large family. Mrs. Chapin survived all her children, and died in this village, March 23, 1879.

NOTE. — A Congregational Church was organized in the South Parish about the year 1782, which continued in existence about fifty years. It kept up public worship in connection with the Baptists till that denomination became extinct in the South part, afterwards with the Universalists. The records of this church were unluckily sold, during the time of the civil war, for paper rags.

CHAPTER XXV.

COURT HOUSES AND COURTS.

AT a session of the General Assembly holden at Windsor, February 8, 1781, among other proceedings of the legislature, an act was passed subdividing the County of Cumberland, which at the time embraced the whole of Eastern Vermont, and establishing in its stead the counties of Windham, Windsor, and Orange. Windham and Windsor counties were laid out with nearly the same boundaries they now have; under Orange County was included all the territory above Windsor County east of the mountains, to the north line of the State. But questions of far more serious moment than organizing new counties were, at this same session, under debate in the Assembly, interest in which was not confined to the legislature. A large number of towns situated along the east bank of Connecticut River were pressing earnestly during these winter months for admission into the new State of Vermont, and most of the towns on the west side of the river were disposed to favor such a movement. April 5, 1781, the union eagerly desired by some and as strongly opposed by others, at the same time considered of such doubtful expediency by many who gave their assent to the move, was at length consummated, and, on the day following, representatives from some thirty-five towns on the east side of the river took their seats in the General Assembly of Vermont.

Among the few towns on the west of the river that disapproved of this union was Woodstock; nor does the opposition to the step, felt and expressed by the inhabitants before it was taken, seem to have abated after the union was accomplished. However, the thing being once done, no remedy was left but to wait the issue of events, and in the mean time the people took pleasure in exercising their inalienable rights as freemen by passing a few votes and resolutions on the subject.

“At a town meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Woodstock at the house of Mr. Oliver Farnsworth in sd town Proceeded

“1st Chose Phinehas Williams moderator for s^d meeting

“2nd Voted to adjourn this meeting until Tuesday the first day of June next [1781] at one o'clock afternoon at this place

“3rd Voted to petition the Gen^l Assembly to alter the lines of this 3rd Regiment and not have them extend across Connecticut river

“4th Voted to petition the Gen^l Assembly to alter the lines of this county and not have them extend across Connecticutt river — ”

The legislature, having thus generously opened the door of admission to these seceding towns, were in duty bound to afford them the benefit and protection of the laws of this State. To accomplish such laudable purpose in part, the limits of Windsor County were extended so as to embrace all the towns within the State opposite the county, and northward of the northerly line of the towns of Claremont, Newport, Unity, and Wendell.

Windsor County, as thus extended, was really beautiful to contemplate. It had been enlarged in area about one half, and by the addition of the new territory was much improved in position, as it now took in for a considerable distance the entire basin of the Connecticut along both banks of that stream. Then the towns on the east side were willing, which was everything in the long run, and, besides adding greatly to the Vermont side in wealth and population, brought with them Dartmouth College, the seat of literature and the arts, an institution which, three years before, the General Assembly had taken under the patronage of the State.

The first session of the Court of Common Pleas for the new county was held at Windsor the last Tuesday in May, 1781, —

“Present the hon^{ble} Elisha Payne Esq. Chief Judge.

Present the honorable { Joseph Marsh
Bezaleel Woodward } Asst Judges,” —

James Wheelock being the clerk of the court. After a brief session, the court adjourned to meet at the same place the last Tuesday in October then next. In the mean while a special court was held at Lebanon, in said county, on the 17th day of July, conducted by the two assistant judges, for the purpose of licensing innkeepers for some of the towns in the county. At this special court Benjamin Burtch, Abel Marsh, Jonathan Ben-

net, and John Bennet were licensed for Hartford; Captain John Strong and Captain Warren Cottle, for Woodstock; Azariah Bliss and Elihu Hide, for Lebanon.¹

As it is almost impossible to realize at the present day that Hanover, New Hampshire, was once in Windsor County, State of Vermont, including the college district, which was erected into a town by itself, the following has a touch of interest in it:—

“State of Vermont } To the Constable of the town of Dres-
Windsor County is } den² in said County, Greeting In the
name and by the authority of the freemen of said State you are
hereby required to summon one able freeholder inhabitant of said
town of Dresden to attend and serve as a petit Juror at the
county court next to be holden at Windsor on the last tuesday
of Oct^r instant, which Juror is to attend at 8 o'clock on the sec-
ond day of the setting of said Court. Hereof fail not and make
due return. Given under my hand at Windsor aforesaid this
20th day of Oct^r A. D. 1781. JAMES WHEELLOCK, Clerk.”

In the same manner an order was issued to the constable of the town of Hanover, in said county, who, in obedience to the order, made service and return as follows:—

“STATE OF VERMONT WINDSOR COUNTY

HANOVER Oct^r 22nd A. D. 1781.

“Capt Thomas Durkee (an Able Freeholder inhabitant of said
Townd) was summonsed. THOMAS PAGE Constable of the
Townd of Hanover fee 8 / 4”

On the last Tuesday in October, 1781, said court met at Windsor, pursuant to adjournment,—present Joseph Marsh as chief judge, Bezaleel Woodward and Elias Weld as assistant judges.³ The docket for this term shows seven continuances and

¹ The expenses of this special court were for travel and attendance one day at Lebanon, for Mr. Marsh, 9s.; for Mr. Woodward, 8s. 3d.

² For “Dresden,” see *Vermont Standard*, June 6, 1872.

³ In regard to the judges who presided over the Windsor County Court during the first year after the county was established, records are somewhat confused, but the following may be worthy of preservation:—

“State of Vermont

“In Council Charlestown October 27th A. D. 1781. His Honor Elisha Paine Esqr. late Chief Judge of the county court for the county of Windsor being advanced to the superior court, and the honble Benjamin Emmons Esqr. having declined acceptance of the office of one of the Judges of said county court; the members of Council and Assembly from said county were requested to nominate a suitable number of persons from which the bench

reviews, and thirty-nine new actions, and the court debentures for the term, which continued four days, amounted to about fifty dollars, including in this sum about twenty dollars for "court expenses." Among other sayings and doings at this session, the court made an order that the clerk issue his warrant to the sheriff, directing him to notify the assistants and justices of the peace to meet at Windsor, the second Tuesday in January next, to agree on a place for a court-house and jail. The following is a copy of the above warrant:—

"State of Vermont } To the Sheriff of said county
Windsor county fs } Greeting

"In the name and by the authority of the freemen of said State you are hereby required to notify & request the assistants & Justices of the peace in said county to meet at Windsor on the second Tuesday of Jany. next at the meeting house, to agree on the particular place whereon to erect a court house and gaol in said town, to give directions respecting the erecting them, and to levy a tax on the inhabitants of said county to defray the expence thereof and for any other purpose which they may Judge proper agreeable to the laws of this State in such cases provided.

"Hereof fail not and make due return according to law.
Dated at Dresden this 15th day of Nov^r A D 1781 pr order of
county court JAMES WHEELLOCK Clerk."

Endorsed

"Beza Woodard Esqr
I: Freeman Esqr
E: Hide Esqr
Fr Smith Esqr
I: Steavens Esqr
W^m Ripley Esqr
Simon Stevens Esqr
Walter Childson Esqr
Nathaniel Brown Esqr
Peter Olcott Esqr
John Troop Esqr
Abell Curtis Esq
Joseph Mash Esqr

Windsor January 8th day 1782

Agreeable to the within warning I have notified the Assistants and Justices of the peace in the County by reading and Leaving a Coppey at thare houses of the principal part of the authority &c

(Coppey) Attest

EB^m BREWSTER Sheriff."

of said county court may be filled; whereupon they returned the honble Thomas Chandler Junr. and Peter Olcott Esquires as persons nominated by them for that purpose; which nominations being approved by this board —

The proceedings of this meeting were somewhat brief and unsatisfactory, as the following copy of record shows:—

“ At a meeting of the Justices of the peace in the County of Windsor held at Windsor in said County on tuesday the — day of Jany 1782 by order of the Court of said County held at Windfor aforesaid on the last tuesday of Oct^r last past to determine on the particular place whereon to erect a Court house & Gaol in sd Windsor to give directions respecting the building them & to levy a tax on the Inhabitants to defray the expense thereof, & for any other matter they may think proper not repugnant to the laws of this State

“ Present the hon^{ble} Paul Spooner Esq. Afst

Francis Smith	}	Esq ^m Justices of the Peace
Moses Ripley		
Abel Stevens		

“ Chose the honble Paul Sponer Esq^r Chairman of the meeting.

“ Voted that the Justices of the Peace be desired to attend at this place upon the business of this meeting by a letter wrote to each by the County Register on the first tuesday of March next to which time this meeting stands adjourned.

“ Attest

J. WHEELOCK Reg^r”

This appears to have been the end of the matter, as about that time the “ union ” was dissolved, and Windsor County withdrew to the west bank of the Connecticut. The county court, which stood adjourned to the first Tuesday in March, 1782, having met at that time, adjourned to the last Tuesday in May then next, to meet at Windsor, at which time and place having met once more, pursuant to adjournment, proceeded to business as follows:—

“ State of Vermont } At a County Court holden at Windsor
Windsor fs } May Term 1782.

Present, Joseph Marsh & Elias Weld Esqrs.

Court opened — adjourned to the last Tuesday of October next

“ Resolved That the honble Joseph Marsh Esqr. be and hereby is advanced to the office of Chief Judge in said county court for the time being, and the honble Thomas Chandler Junr. and Peter Olcott Esquires are hereby appointed Assistant Judges in the said county court for the

time being — And that the Secretary be directed to serve the Clerk of said county court with a copy of this resolution to be entered on the commission of the Judges of said Court —

“ Extract from the Journals

“ Attest THO TOLMAN Dep. Secy.”

Debenters

Joseph Marsh Esq Chief Judge

Travel 12 miles . . . 0 - 4 - 0

Attend^{ce} one Day . . . 10 14 /

Elias Weld Esq side Judge

travel 6 miles . . . £0 - 2 - 0

Attend^{ce} one Day . . . 7 9 /Benjⁿ Wait Esqr High Sheriff

travel 6 miles . . . 0 - 2 - 0

Attendce one Day . . . 6 6 /

Attest

S. JACOB C^k P. T."

Till 1786 the regular sessions of the court were held at Windsor, while special courts were held in different towns in the county, as occasion called, the court moving about on wheels, after the fashion of the times. But in that year, the General Assembly, at the October session, held at Rutland, appointed that Woodstock should be the shire town for the County of Windsor, and the place for erecting the court-house and jail should be on the land of Captain Israel Richardson. The captain made a public grant of land for the purpose of locating the county buildings, embracing an acre and one half and thirty-two rods, conveying the same to the people of Windsor County by deed dated the 29th day of May, 1788. As the Common was to be a green spot, the settlement came to be called "the Green," a term familiar to many of the first settlers of the town, from their acquaintance with Middleborough Green and Taunton Green. In March, 1787, it was enacted by the Assembly that the courts for Windsor County should be held at Windsor until the inhabitants of Woodstock should have built a court-house to the approbation of the judges.¹ In October following, the Assembly enacted that after the session of the Windsor County Court for October instant, all writs and processes returnable to said court should be made returnable to Woodstock. The court-house and jail, therefore, must have been erected that season. The building committee embraced Captain Richardson, William Perry, Elias

¹ It is hardly to be supposed that the inhabitants of Woodstock, as a whole, were, at the time, indifferent upon the matter of establishing the county seat in this town; but it is a little singular that at the annual March meeting, 1785, the fourth article in the warning, namely, "To see if the town will choose a man or men to represent the town to the Committee that are appointed to affix a place for the County buildings," on being called up, was dismissed without action.

Thomas, Lieutenant Palmer, and Lieutenant Ransom,¹ and the work was so far completed that the house was ready for the session of the court to begin the last Tuesday in May, 1788. This first court-house was located on the site of the brick house erected by General Lyman Mower in 1823, now occupied by Mrs. Allen. It was a two-story building, with the court-room on the second floor, which was warmed by a fireplace. The jail-house stood nearly in front of the Methodist church, and faced the northeast, having one end resting on the southerly line of the Common, and extending thence into the highway. Levi Washburn, who assisted at the work of putting up this jail, being ten years old at the time, said (1st September, 1871) that the south end of the building was on a line with Mr. Munger's well, and from this point extended into the present road. Captain Phineas Williams built the dungeon, drawing the stone from the side hill just above Mr. Woodward's mills. Captain John Strong, with whom Levi was then living, built the wood part. At the same time, to furnish accommodations for the court people, Captain Richardson put up a two-story building for a tavern. This stood in the present park, nearly in front of the Gallup house, and three or four rods from the southerly line of the Common. It faced the southwest, and the walls of the cellar were laid up with logs. The captain, having finished the work, committed the charge of running the establishment to his son Jason, who kept public-house here till 1793. Monday night, October 24, 1791, this court-house was burnt.² Cato Boston, a mischievous negro residing in the family of Dr. Stephen Powers, was suspected of having set fire to the building, and was arraigned on an indictment for the same before the Supreme Court, at the session held the following February in Windsor; but, satisfactory proof not being produced, the jury pronounced him *not guilty*.

Arrangements were now made for the building of a new court-house, and Charles Marsh, recently established in the town as practicing attorney, was appointed agent for the work. Mr. Marsh's first move was to solicit Captain Richardson to throw

¹ September 10, 1787, Dr. Capt. Richardson poray (Perry) E Thomas Com-mitty men for the Cort House for a Leven Dayes Work 2-9-6 Six Days Work 1-7-0 Five Days Work 1-2-6 = 4-19-0. — Winslow's Account Book.

² "Tuesday Morning, 8 o'clock — We this moment learn from Woodstock that the court house in that town was last night consumed by fire." — Spooner's *Vermont Journal*, Oct. 25, 1791.

out a larger piece of land for public use. The captain refused at first to do this, and Mr. Marsh proceeded forthwith to have the timber for building the house drawn upon his own meadow, and proposed to erect the new court-house there. Seeing the turn affairs were likely to take, Captain Richardson yielded the matter, and, in compliance with Mr. Marsh's request, extended the Common to its present limits. In addition to this, he agreed to lease a piece of land on the west side of the Common, on which to locate the court-house, and on this land the building was erected in 1793. A belfry was constructed upon the center of the house, surmounted with a weathercock, painted white, which always faced the wind. What was a great rarity, the belfry contained a bell, the first in the county, and said to be the first in the State, and certainly the first that was hung in the tower of a court-house.¹ It was purchased by Jesse Williams, in Hartford, Conn., was a very good bell, and did faithful service till the summer of 1822, when it cracked, and was replaced by another.

The court-room to this house, in its construction and arrangement, had some marked features, quite characteristic of the times in which the building was put up. At the westerly end was the bench where sat the honorable court, having the jury-box on the left, and on the right a small desk and seat for Benjamin Swan, county clerk for over forty years. On the same side with the clerk, further down the wall, was the sheriff's box. The space in front of the bench was occupied by the bar, which consisted of a platform rising two steps above the floor, extending down the apartment some distance, and curved at the lower end like a horseshoe. This platform was protected by a balustrade, and supplied with tables, chairs, etc., for the accommodation of the counsel.² Below the bar, a little to the left or easterly side, the stove was placed, a "good iron stove," according to the requirement of the legislature. Nor should the bell-rope be forgotten, considering its ornamental character and conspicuous

¹ N. Williams.

² The bar as originally constructed did not prove satisfactory, and, in consequence, at a bar meeting held during the September term of the County Court, 1811, a committee was appointed, consisting of Charles Marsh, Titus Hutchinson, and Job Lyman, Esqs., to make such al-

terations, with the concurrence of the court, as might seem best. At the September term in 1812, the same committee was instructed to make application to the court for leave and direction to procure inside blinds for the west windows of the court-house, and to see that the work was done.





position, which descended from the arched ceiling above and rested on the floor in front of the stove; or was suspended, after use, from some nail in the wall, or knotted up high and left dangling in the air.¹ On both sides of the doorway or main entrance, three circular galleries — better, perhaps, boxes — were arranged, one above the other, for the spectators, who thus had a commanding view of everything going on in the court-room.

Besides serving as a court-house, this building was used as a place for holding public lectures, singing-schools, religious exercises on Sundays and week-days, town meetings, etc. Especially whenever the court-house bell rang of an afternoon or evening, people understood that something of a public nature was up that required their attendance; and usually they responded to the call with alacrity, oftentimes without knowing or asking what the bell was ringing for.² Put to such manifold uses as these, the old court-house preserved its place, without special change, through many years, and in the mean while heard within its four walls, it may be safe to say, better law-talked, and better preaching discoursed, than any other court-house can boast that ever existed in the State of Vermont. It was thoroughly repaired and remodeled in 1836, and a town hall constructed in the basement, and, in its more comely and convenient shape, served its purpose till the 4th of July, 1854, when, by reason of fire-crackers being thrown on the roof, it took fire and was consumed. A new and more elegant court-house was built the same year, and made ready for the session of the County Court, May, 1855. It was erected on land purchased of Miss Harriet Myrick, by subscription of the village people. For repairs on the old court-house in 1836 the town and townspeople paid about \$2,000. For the new court-house the town raised by tax \$5,000; individuals paid for the site \$1,200; so that there was raised in Woodstock, towards rebuilding the same, \$8,200, including insurance of \$2,000 on the old building, which may be properly reckoned a

¹ At the opening of the court, fifty-five years ago or more, on the morning of the first day of the session, it was customary to ring the bell till the sheriff appeared. Lysander Raymond, on one occasion, kept Mortimer Danforth ringing more than half an hour. The court-room, in the mean time, had filled up with a crowd of people, including judges,

lawyers, spectators, etc., all standing or moving about, a noisy throng. Lysander at length appeared, bearing his ensign of authority, the sheriff's staff, whereupon the bell ceased ringing, the people took their seats, the noise was hushed, and the court proceeded to business.

² Mrs. Hazen.

contribution of the town.¹ The whole expense of the house was about \$14,000.

When the first jail was built, and where located, has been stated above. The expense of this jail was met in part by private subscriptions, and in part was made chargeable on the county; and the General Assembly, at the October session, 1787, held at Newbury, passed the following act: "As the treasury of Windsor County is considerably in debt in consequence of expenses for building a gaol, etc., therefore it is ordered that a tax of one and one half pence be levied on the taxable property of said county." This jail was a superficial and inferior concern, but, though frequently condemned, it continued in use till 1797. In that year it was ordered by act of the General Assembly that a new jail be built, and to be erected on such site as should be deemed most advisable. Charles Marsh was appointed contractor on behalf of the county to superintend the work. The building was begun in April, and mostly completed that year. It was made two stories high, the house part being thirty-six feet by forty-eight, the prison part twelve feet by twenty-four. Under the west end was a cellar fourteen by thirty-six feet, and seven feet deep. Benjamin Emmons dug the cellar and stoned it, and underpinned the whole building, agreeing to do the work in as good and elegant manner as the court-house was underpinned; and he agreed also to underlay the whole flooring of the prison part, and cover the same up to the sills with stones so large that three men could not remove them. The flooring of this prison part was laid with eight stones twelve feet long and three feet wide, and from four to seven inches thick, carefully hewn so as to make good joints, and bedded down in lime mortar. This part of the work was done by Jacob Wilder, and here was constructed the dungeon of the prison part. Colton White and Nathaniel Smith were the carpenters employed to do the wood work in and about the building. A barn was put up at the same time in the rear of the jail building. The site chosen was the one where the jail now stands, the land being given to the county for this purpose by Charles Marsh. The cost of the work was about \$5,000, defrayed in part from liberal subscriptions made by the inhabitants of Woodstock, and by tax on the county for the balance.

¹ N. Williams.

The prison of the new jail being still found wholly insufficient, Elias Keyes was appointed in 1816 to build the stone jail. This task he performed in the most thorough and substantial manner, taking hold of the work in person, with pickaxe and spade,¹ and the expense to the county was about \$15,000. As the judges demurred a little to paying such a bill, Keyes replied, in that event he would take the building himself. It seemed best, however, to the authorities not to leave matters so, and Keyes's bills were settled without further question. A brief sketch of the building of this stone jail is found in the following memorial from Judge Keyes, which appeared in the "Woodstock Observer":—

"Elias Keyes to the good people of Windsor County, State of Vermont.

"GENTLEMEN: In the month of May, 1816, two of the honorable judges of said County, Leland and Hunter, appointed the undersigned agent and contractor for building a jail at Woodstock. 21st day of May, 1816. Aaron Leland & W^m Hunter.

"Nothing could have prevailed upon the judges to have undertaken this expensive work but the great necessity our county were in for a good and safe jail. Many gentlemen in Windham and Windsor Counties had great fear that we should not be able to keep our prisoners in our old, weak, stinking, wooden jail, till they could be brought to trial. For the old wooden jail was not scarcely a shadow of a jail, nor ever had been since it was built; for the prisoners had (and could at any time) burn out with a small coal of fire and a goose-quill for a bellows. The cost which the county and state paid for guarding night and day the old jail, moving prisoners from room to room, emptying the prison pots, seeking after and bringing back men who had escaped from the old jail, for the last year I had the honor of setting on the bench, amounted to almost \$1,000. I call upon you, gentlemen, to remember the cold, frost, snow and drought of the year of our Lord 1816 which produced almost a total famine for man and beast in the years 1816 & 1817, and largely added in consequence

¹ On the show the judge exhibited while thus employed, Sewall Fullam, Esq., made the remark, years afterwards: "If I could remember dates as well as I can remember the appearance of old

Judge Keyes when scraping out the jail cellar, with nothing on but a long woolen shirt, I would swear to them on a 'stack of Bibles.' " — [Letter, 1869.]

to the expense of building the jail. The jail with its drains and wall to defend it from the brook, its stone fence and repairing the old jail-house, cost the county \$14,647, but the undersigned has built you a jail equal in strength and convenience to any one of its size in the known world.¹

" *March 18, 1820.*

ELIAS KEYES."

In the great fire of March, 1867, the wood part of the jail building, including barn and all, was burnt. In the following year a substantial brick building was put up in place of the old jail-house thus destroyed, the work being superintended by Judges Marcy and French. In the new building a room was fitted up for the county clerk, and a vault attached for the safe-keeping of the County Court records. Some repairs and changes were also made in the prison part, and a few of Judge Keyes's solid rocks, quarried originally at the Knox ledge, were removed. When the bridge at the foot of Elm Street was rebuilt, in 1870, these rocks were worked into the south abutment.

In the summer of 1881 a fireproof building was erected at the east end of the jail, close by the brook, for the safe-keeping of the files and records of the County Court and of the probate courts within the county. This work was superintended by Judge Miller.

The members of the bar about the close of the last century and the beginning of the present were generally men well versed in English literature. They were familiar with that body of useful and improving reading called the British classics, embracing a body of standard works of the best writers in the language. Literature had not then run wild and sprung up at random along the highways and hedges, but was mostly confined to cultivated minds; and the list of authors and their works, of accepted character and authority, was so small that students of common industry could easily cultivate and in most cases gain a profitable acquaintance with them. The works of Addison, Swift, Steele, and Johnson among the writers of prose, and of Shakespeare, Milton, Pope, and Cowper among the poets,

¹ On the 20th of June, 1817, Elisha V. Perkins, while preparing a blast for blowing rocks for building this jail, was thrown about thirty feet by the powder accidentally taking fire. He was taken up for dead, but was resuscitated. His arm was amputated the 16th of August by Dr. Gallup. "We are happy in stating that he is restored to health with the loss of a limb." — *Vermont Journal*, Sept. 8.

were in the hands of all, and furnished not only ready and elegant models of speech, but classic and chaste conceptions, and poetical ideas to such as had a taste for polite learning. Works of fiction were scarce, Fielding, Smollett, and Richardson being the writers in this department chiefly read; while periodical literature was almost wholly unknown, and the columns of Spooner's "Vermont Journal" long furnished the principal part of newspaper reading to the people of Windsor County, the learned and the unlearned alike. Yet, in the midst of what a modern would consider such abject poverty of reading matter, the lawyers of those days were well-bred in speech and well-informed, and understood the substance of classic literature better than the same profession at the present day can comprehend and enjoy modern literature in its endless extent and variety of form and matter. Furthermore, the want of a competent understanding of references to the English classic writers was far more a cause of reproach to professional men in those days than it is now. Formerly, also, there was more fraternity among members of the bar than exists in these days; meaning by this, not similarity of political or religious views, but that they were more a brotherhood than they are in these days of diversity of pursuits. Ninety years ago, instances were numerous of men in professional life toiling for glory and honor as well as material profit: the main question now with members of the learned professions generally, including instructors in the fine arts and teachers, male and female, is, how shall one soonest get rich? Consequently lawyers are found connected with all manner of industrial occupations, and engaged in speculations entirely unprofessional,—speculations and occupations which, in the days when such men as Charles Marsh, Titus Hutchinson, Jonathan H. Hubbard, and Horace Everett came to the bar, would have subjected a practitioner to the censure of his professional brethren, and impaired his reputation as a counsellor or attorney of the court.

At the March term of the Windsor County Court, A. D. 1806, the members of the bar in the county met and formed into a society, and adopted a code of "Regulations and Rules" for the conduct of the society, consisting of twenty-one articles, some of which in their character afford considerable food for reflection. The rules provided that the society should elect a president and

secretary, who were to hold their office till others were elected, with this condition attached always, that the State's attorney, when present, should preside.

The society was to appoint a committee for the examination of candidates, to hold their office for one year, etc.

If any candidate for admission as a student in an office had not received a degree in the arts, he must at least be qualified, excepting a knowledge of the Greek language, to be admitted to the first class of students at Dartmouth College, and that he was so qualified was to be carefully ascertained by the committee of examination.

The candidate who had received his degree, before being recommended for admission to practice, must have studied three years in the office and under the direction of some member of the bar practicing before the Supreme Court ; all others, five years.

No member of the bar was to receive as a reward for the tuition of a student at law any sum less than two hundred and fifty dollars for the time required ; nor was he to have a student in his office without the consent of the society first obtained, nor more than two students at any one time.

No student at law was to receive any share in the perquisites or profits arising from the business of the office, nor was he to engage in or pursue any other employment during any part of the term of his study. Neither could he be recommended for admission to practice without first having been propounded to the society for such recommendation ; and, when he had received a vote of recommendation, notice thereof was to be given to the court in writing, under the hand of the president, including a request for his admission to the bar.

The tuition fee of two hundred and fifty dollars, as required by the rules, not being found to work well, at a bar meeting held during the September term of the County Court, 1809, it was motioned by Mr. Marsh that in future students be admitted to read at fifty dollars per annum.

The motion was ordered to lie for consideration, nor was any action taken in the matter till the September term, 1810, when, upon consideration, the motion was dismissed. At the March term, 1813, the motion was renewed, and again ordered to lie for consideration. At the end of another year the matter was called up once more, and it was voted that students pay in future fifty dollars a year tuition.

The rules adopted by the society at its organization in 1806 remained in force, without material change, about thirty years, at the end of which period, or soon after, both rules and society seem to have died out.

The following is a list of the members of the bar in 1813: In Windsor, Jonathan H. Hubbard, Horace Everett, Luther Mills, Thomas Leland, Jr., Samuel Shuttleworth; in Weathersfield, Zenas Clark; in Springfield, John Holton; in Chester, John P. Williams, Thomas Robinson; in Cavendish, Uriel C. Hatch; in Woodstock, Charles Marsh, Titus Hutchinson, Job Lyman; in Hartland, Oliver Gallup, Eliakim Spooner, Alexander Holton; in Hartford, George E. Wales; in Norwich, Ebenezer Brown, Aaron Loveland; in Sharon, Jabez Parkhurst; in Royalton, Jacob Smith; in Bethel, Luther Blodgett; in Ludlow, Nathan P. Fletcher. Many of these were original members of the society, among whom were Nicholas Baylies, Elizur Hubbard, Theoph. Olcott, Mr. Buck, and Mr. Heald, whose names do not appear in the foregoing list. By the September term, 1814, the bar had lost Jacob Smith, who died at Royalton on the evening of the 22d of said September; and had gained the following gentlemen, namely, John C. Thompson, Windsor; Norman Williams, Woodstock; Simeon Short, Springfield; John Francis, Royalton.

During the first part of the year 1818, Oliver Gallup and Eliakim Spooner, Esqs., of Hartland, and Zenas Clark, Esq., of Weathersfield, died. The attorneys then residing in the county were the following:—

In Windsor.

Jonathan H. Hubbard.
Horace Everett.
Luther Mills.
Thomas Leland.
Samuel Shuttleworth.
Asa Aiken.
Carlos Coolidge.

In Hartland.

John C. Thompson.

In Hartford.

George E. Wales.

In Weathersfield.

Nathl. K. J. Oliver.

In Norwich.

Ebenezer Brown.
Aaron Loveland.
G. C. West.

In Royalton.

John Francis.
Jacob Collamer.

In Springfield.

Nomlas Cobb.
Samuel W. Porter.

In Ludlow.

Nathan P. Fletcher.

In Woodstock.

Charles Marsh.

Titus Hutchinson.

Job Lyman.

Norman Williams.

David Pierce.

Isaac N. Cushman.

In Chester.

John P. Williams.

Thomas Robinson.

Cephas L. Rockwood.

In Cavendish.

Uriel C. Hatch.

Reuben Washburn.

Brief sketches of a few of the members of the bar, formerly residents in Woodstock, must close this chapter.

CHARLES MARSH.

Charles Marsh was born in Lebanon, Conn., the 10th day of July, 1765. He was the son of Joseph Marsh, who resided in the same town, from which place he removed to Hartford, Vt., in 1773. Not having a healthy, vigorous frame, fit for farm-work, Charles was sent to college, and graduated at Dartmouth in 1786; also at the law school of Judge Reeves in Litchfield, Conn., in 1788; immediately established himself at Woodstock, Vt., where he was actively engaged in his profession to near the time of his death, which took place January 11, 1849, in the eighty-third year of his age. He was appointed District Attorney by General Washington, in 1797, for the Vermont District. In 1809 he was elected one of the board of trustees of Dartmouth College, retaining this trust to the time of his decease. He was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1814, and was an active and efficient friend and contributor to most of the benevolent objects of the day. He married for his first wife Nancy Collins, of Litchfield, Conn., who died at Woodstock June 18, 1793. Their children were:

Charles, born at Woodstock, October 7, 1790, who graduated at Dartmouth College, 1813, and, after completing the preparatory studies for admission to the bar, established himself in Lansingburgh, N. Y., where he married Mary Leonard, November 27, 1816. He died July 3, 1817, in Louisville, Ky., where he had gone for the benefit of his health. His wife survived him but a year or two. Ann Collins, born at Woodstock June 10, 1793; married John Burnell, M. D., of Woodstock.





Mr. Marsh married for his second wife, June 3, 1798, Susan Arnold, widow of Josias Lyndon Arnold, Esq., of St. Johnsbury, Vt., and daughter of Elisha Perkins, M. D., of Plainfield, Conn. She died at Woodstock, January 31, 1853, aged seventy-six years. Their children were:

Lyndon Arnold, born February 26, 1799, and graduated at Dartmouth College in 1819. Having completed his professional studies, he was admitted to the bar of Windsor County at the September term, 1822; was established in Woodstock in the practice of the law, and continued to reside in this town till his death, which occurred October 29, 1872. For a period of about thirty-three years he was register of probate for the district of Hartford. November 5, 1829, he married Lucy Gay Swan, daughter of Benjamin Swan, of this town.

George Perkins, born March 15, 1801; graduated at Dartmouth College in 1820; studied law in his father's office, and was admitted to the bar in 1825; settled in Burlington, Vt., in the practice of his profession; was elected member of the United States House of Representatives in 1842, and for the three succeeding terms; and in 1849 was appointed Minister Resident of the United States at Constantinople, where he remained till 1853, when, upon change of political administration, he was recalled. In 1861 he was appointed minister to the new kingdom of Italy, retaining the position till the close of his life. He died in Valombrosa, not far from Florence, on the 23d day of July, 1882. Mr. Marsh was the author of several works of great learning and value, among which may be named a "Grammar of the Icelandic Language," "Lectures on the English Language," "Man and Nature," etc. He was what may be called a truly learned man; in the variety and thoroughness of his acquisitions, in all departments of human knowledge, being almost without a peer in the world. He married for his first wife Harriet Buell, daughter of Ozias Buell, of Burlington, who survived but a few years. For his second wife he married Caroline Crane, of Berkley, Mass., who is still living (1886).

Joseph, born April 16, 1807; studied medicine, and received the degree of M. D. at Dartmouth Medical School in 1830; and, after several years of successful practice in his profession, was appointed Professor of Theory and Practice in the University of Vermont. He died at Woodstock, November 7, 1841.

Sarah Burrill, born June 5, 1809; married, October 1, 1828, Wyllys Lyman, of Hartford, Vt., a lawyer by profession. She died September 1, 1841.

Charles, born May 10, 1821; resided in Woodstock on the family estate, which he took charge of and conducted for many years, till, in 1869, he disposed of the property to Frederick Billings, Esq. He died on the morning of the 13th of May, 1873, at San Diego, Cal., whither he had gone for his health. Not inferior to any of his brothers in intellectual abilities, though less cultivated therein, he possessed and exercised equally with them, all through life, a strict integrity, and a moral character pure from all stain.¹

TITUS HUTCHINSON.

Titus Hutchinson was born in Grafton, Mass., on the 29th day of April, 1771, where he lived in his father's family till July 4, 1776. On that memorable day the family left Hebron, and removed to the farm in the township of Pomfret, two miles from the court-house in Woodstock, which is still known as the Hutchinson farm.

His father was the Rev. Aaron Hutchinson,² a clergyman of much celebrity in the State of Vermont during its early history; and his mother's maiden name was Margery Carter, who was born in Hebron, Conn. His oldest brother, Aaron Hutchinson, had been educated at Harvard College, and was settled in the practice of the law at Lebanon, N. H., in the neighborhood of Dartmouth Collège, to which institution he was a friend, and to some extent a pecuniary patron; and when Titus had become of suitable age to choose a course of life for himself, and had decided to go through college, he was greatly desirous his younger brother should enter at Dartmouth. The opportunities which Titus enjoyed in early life for schooling were very limited, being mainly such instruction as he could obtain at home under his aunt Susan or his older brother Alexander, or at the hands of any one who could assist him through the hard spots while digging out the use of figures by himself as well as he could. He

¹ For a sketch of Charles Marsh, Sen., see Memorial Address read before the Vermont Historical Society, October 11, 1870, by Hon. James Barrett.

² For a sketch of Rev. Aaron Hutchinson, see *Vermont Standard* for Aug. 17, Aug. 24, and Aug. 31, 1871.

was devoted to farming till he had passed his nineteenth birthday, when he decided to leave off that business and begin his studies preparatory to entering college. On the 10th day of November he began to commit to memory his Latin grammar. By noon of the third day he had recited from memory all the declensions of nouns and adjectives and the inflections of irregular verbs, and at the end of four weeks had done with the Latin grammar, by that time having committed to memory all he ever did thus commit in that grammar, and become able to go on in his lessons without trouble. His father was his instructor, who had fitted many students for college, and was himself a very good scholar in the classics. By the summer of 1792 he was prepared to enter college two years in advance, and up to this time was expecting to go to Dartmouth. But in the way of his admission to that institution he found a difficulty he could not well set aside. The rules of the college exacted tuition for the four years of the course from each graduate, at whatever stage of the course he might enter, unless he came honorably dismissed from some other college. His brother Aaron, feeling this to be a great injustice, thought the rule might be very properly set aside in the case of Titus, considering all the circumstances, and so requested of the trustees when met at Commencement in 1792; but they refused, and upon that it was determined to send the young man to some other college.

This point being settled, it was decided, after some investigation, to send Titus to Princeton College, New Jersey, then under charge of the Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, a man of considerable celebrity at the time, who, at the commencement of the disputes between Great Britain and the colonies, espoused the cause of American freedom, was a member of the Continental Congress of 1776, and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. It was already winter when the young man started on his journey to Princeton, with horse, saddle, and saddle-bags, some gold in his pocket and about fifty dollars in silver. His brother Oliver kept him company over the Green Mountains, with a sleigh-load of wheat to take to Lansingburgh for market, at which place the brothers parted, and Titus traveled on alone through Troy southward. After saving himself, by good luck, from being fleeced of his silver coin at a tavern where he took dinner that day, when night came he stopped at another place,

where all was well and kind, except that for sleeping accommodations they gave him a bed on which the sheets were literally wet, and he was too modest to make an outcry and have them changed. In the morning he was sick and could not eat any breakfast, but, feeling better in the forenoon, started once more on his journey, and by night was quite well again. His course in the mean time lay on the east side of the Hudson River till he should come opposite to Windsor, just north of the Highlands, at which point he expected to cross over, and then take a direct route through Morristown to Princeton. Having at length reached this point, he found it was not possible to cross the river there on account of the high water and floating ice, and accordingly traveled on down the river till he reached the fort opposite West Point, when he put up in the old barracks for the night, there being no tavern in the vicinity. Two other travelers, on horseback like himself, were expecting to cross the river with him. They were told at the barracks there was no path over the highlands but a bridle-path, so steep in some places that the only way to get along would be to let the horse go forward, and each hold by his horse's tail, and so be drawn up. Over this piece of information the travelers were quite cheery and had a hearty laugh, thinking it a good joke, but found it, on trial, to be literally true.

The second Saturday night after leaving his home in Vermont, Titus found himself at Princeton, and put up at a tavern for the Sabbath. Monday morning, about sunrise, he waited on Dr. Witherspoon at his house. The doctor was not up, but breakfast was preparing in the room where he was seated. The situation was a little embarrassing ; but he felt that his business required dispatch, and he must know his destiny as speedily as the case admitted. After some twenty minutes the venerable old doctor in his blindness felt his way to the room, and, opening the door, inquired if Mr. Hutchinson was present, and being answered in the affirmative, gave him welcome and invited him to breakfast, after which they would retire to the doctor's study and consider the business before them. Soon the family were called together, and they sang a hymn which all seemed to know by heart ; then all knelt in prayer, after which they took breakfast. This being finished, the doctor retired to his study with Mr. Hutchinson, where he questioned him about his studies, what Latin and

what Greek books he had used. He then proposed to the candidate many questions, to try his skill, repeating Latin expressions and asking him to give the same in English, and in like manner English sentences to be rendered into their equivalent Latin, and in each case to repeat the rules in parsing these sentences. Perhaps two hours were thus spent in familiar conversation, and in a trial of the candidate's fitness for admission to the college. All passed smoothly for Mr. Hutchinson. Being deficient in the mathematics, he was required to make up what was lacking in this department, which he safely accomplished in five weeks, at the end of which time he began reciting in full with the Junior class. He found upon inquiry that those of his class who entered the college as Freshmen entered the same 10th day of November that he began to fit for college.

While thus going on and reciting with his class, it was suggested to him that he stood no chance for any one of the four or five honorary appointments at Commencement, as they never gave them to any student who was not in his class at college two full years. This made no difference, however, in his diligence and energy in the pursuit of knowledge; and in the end he was complimented with the English Salutatory Oration, placed as second in grade among the honorary appointments.

Having completed his studies at college, Mr. Hutchinson began studying the profession of the law in the office of his brother Aaron, in Lebanon, N. H., and was admitted to the bar in Vermont, at the County Court holden in Chelsea, in the county of Orange, on the second Monday of June, 1798. He soon after opened an office in Woodstock,¹ and began the practice of the law in the neighborhood where he had been brought up, and among a people who had known him from his early years. Woodstock at this time was not a place of much business of any kind. One lawyer had settled in the town already, and he was equal to all the demands that could be made upon a man of his profession. This was Mr. Charles Marsh, who bore the reputa-

¹ "The said Titus at Woodstock aforesaid, on the sixth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine, was a regular and sworn attorney of the several county courts in the said State. . . . And the said Titus, then and there at Woodstock

aforesaid on the day last aforesaid, publicly professing himself skilled and learned in the law, publicly erected on the corner of the street a sign, with the words LAW OFFICE BY T. HUTCHINSON inscribed thereon."

tion of being a most accurate and ready lawyer and a correct classical scholar, and, withal, in wit and sarcasm wielded weapons of the keenest edge and highest finish. It required some courage in a young man to offer himself as a competitor for business against such an antagonist; but Mr. Hutchinson came forward, and soon secured business enough to warrant him in applying his time and talents to the prosecution of his profession.

In politics Mr. Hutchinson was a Jeffersonian Republican, and in the earlier portion of his life was an eminently popular man, and might have easily secured almost any political preferment within the gift of the people. Between the years 1810 and 1825 he was repeatedly solicited to become a candidate for Congress, with every prospect of success; but all these offers he steadily refused. Later in life, when he might have accepted such a place, the time had gone by. Politics had then become more complicated and politicians more cunning, and the plain, frank bearing of the old-school politician was no longer a passport to preferment.

On the 3d day of March, 1813, Mr. Hutchinson was appointed by President Madison Attorney of the United States for the Vermont District, retaining the office about ten years. In 1825 he was elected a judge of the Supreme Court, and continued on the bench of that court till October, 1833, the last four years of which he presided as chief judge. After this date he lived in comparative retirement till the close of his life, occupied chiefly with the duties of his profession and his farm labors. He died August 24, 1857.

Titus Hutchinson was married to Clarissa Sage, the 16th day of February, 1800. She died January 18, 1844. Their children were:

Edwin, born February 28, 1803; graduated at the University of Vermont; was approbated as a student in his father's office the 18th day of August, 1823; admitted to the bar at the June term of the County Court, A. D. 1826; settled in this village in the practice of his profession; and died August 23, 1861: regarded by some as the best-read lawyer at the bar.

Oramel, born November 3, 1804; graduated at the University of Vermont; was approbated as a student in his father's office the 23d day of August, 1824; admitted to the bar at the December term of the County Court, 1827; settled in Chester, Vt., in the practice of his profession, and died there, October 7, 1878.

Henry, or Henry S., as he was called in the after part of his life, was born the 30th day of June, 1806; graduated at the University of Vermont; was approbated as a student in his father's office, at a meeting of the gentlemen of the bar, September 20, 1825; admitted to the bar at the June term of the County Court in 1828; resided in various parts of the country; and died in this town, June 24, 1885.¹

Titus, born December 5, 1809; was a merchant for some years in Woodstock; is residing at present in Hancock, Vt.

Clarissa Sage, born February 10, 1814; resided in Woodstock; and died unmarried April 13, 1852. Alexander, born February 3, 1816; resided in Boston, where he was in business a short time as a merchant; from Boston came to Woodstock, where he was in trade a few years; died July 23, 1850, while crossing the Isthmus on his way to California.

JOB LYMAN.

Job Lyman, the son of Elias Lyman, was born in Northampton, Mass., where his father resided, on the 9th day of December, 1781. He fitted for college at Deerfield Academy; was admitted to the Freshman class at Dartmouth College in 1800, and graduated in 1804; was admitted to the bar in Windsor County at the March term of the County Court, 1808; settled in Woodstock, in the practice of his profession, where he continued to reside till May, 1850. He then removed with his family to Burlington, in which place he died on the 10th day of September, 1870. In January, 1811, he married, at Westminster, Miss Mary P. Hall, daughter of the Hon. Lot Hall, of that town.²

NORMAN WILLIAMS.

Norman Williams, the son of Jesse Williams, was born in Woodstock the 6th day of October, 1791. Having gone through the required studies, he was admitted to the Sophomore class at the University of Vermont, and graduated at that institution, with full honors, in the summer of 1810. He decided to take up the profession of the law, and, after finishing the required term of study, opened an office in this village, June, 1814. In

¹ For a sketch of Henry S. Hutchinson, see *Vermont Standard* for July 2, 1885.

² For a more extended sketch of Mr. Lyman, see *Vermont Standard*, Sept. 15, 1870.

1820 he was elected auditor of accounts against the State, and retained the post three years, resigning it at the end of that time to be elected Secretary of State. This latter office he held till the fall of 1831, when he declined to be a candidate for another term. That same season he removed from Woodstock to Montreal, engaging in mercantile pursuits in that city, and remaining there till June, 1834, when he returned to Woodstock and resumed the practice of his profession. In May, 1839, he was appointed clerk of the court in Windsor County, retaining this office till his decease, the 12th day of January, 1868.¹

DAVID PIERCE.

David Pierce, Jr., was born in Southborough, Mass., the 26th of March, 1786. About the year 1797 his father removed with his family to Barnard, and settled in that town, and there died in 1816. David, his son, graduated at Dartmouth College in 1811. By a vote of the gentlemen of the bar at a meeting held during the March term of the County Court, 1813, he was admitted a student in the office of Charles Marsh, Esq. At the end of three years, when a motion was made in bar meeting for his examination for admission to the bar, some doubts being raised as to the length of time he had read, Job Lyman was appointed to make inquiries on that subject, and report as soon as might be. On the next day Mr. Lyman reported "that Mr. Pierce commenced reading December, 1812, under the instruction of Mr. Marsh, though he did not tarry and read in the office, but carried books to his father's, and read there, coming about once a fortnight and reciting to Mr. Marsh; that this practice was continued through the winter, since which time he has been a constant student in the office, except he taught a school on the Green in said Woodstock twelve weeks one winter, during which time he spent his leisure hours out of school in the office, reading and attending to law instructions." Upon the foregoing report, the vote was passed for an order from the court for the examination of Mr. Pierce, which order was granted. Mr. Pierce was examined, and admitted a practicing attorney at the bar.

Directly after his admission to the bar Mr. Pierce opened an office in this village, and continued in the practice of the law

¹ See *Vermont Standard* for Jan. 16 and 30, 1868.

for many years. In 1823 he was elected auditor of accounts against the State, and retained the office till October, 1845. In 1836 he was chosen a justice of the Court of Common Pleas, holding the position till January, 1846. He died in this village, Tuesday, August 16, 1872.

Judge Pierce was twice married. His first wife was Miss Ruth Downer, daughter of John Downer, Esq., of Sharon, to whom he was married the 5th day of October, 1819. She died the 23d day of June, 1833. His second wife was Miss Mary S. Gardner, of Brighton, Mass., to whom he was married the 17th day of December, 1834. She died the 24th day of May, 1871.

ISAAC N. CUSHMAN.

No information has been obtained concerning the early life of Mr. Cushman. He was of collegiate education, having graduated at Middlebury College in 1812, and, deciding to follow the profession of the law, he was approbated as a student in Titus Hutchinson's office at the March term of the County Court, A. D. 1813, his time to count from December 7, 1812. At the end of three years he passed his examination, and was admitted to the bar at the same time with David Pierce. At that time the regular examining committee for admission to the bar consisted of Jonathan H. Hubbard, Titus Hutchinson, and Charles Marsh, with Luther Mills as colleague with Mr. Marsh on the same committee. Next after Windsor, Woodstock in those days appeared to young lawyers the most promising field in the county, and as Cushman was of an ambitious spirit, he decided to establish himself here. He was now taken into partnership by Mr. Hutchinson, with whom he remained connected in practice till the 8th of December, 1821, when the partnership was dissolved, and Cushman opened an office in Hartland, where J. C. Thompson, Esq., had lately done business. While residing in Hartland, quite a loss befell Mr. Cushman in the destruction by fire of his dwelling-house and office, on the night of the 25th of April, 1824. About the year 1833 he removed from Hartland, and settled once more in Woodstock, doing business in this town for the rest of his professional life. He died in Hartland, March 18, 1843, at the age of sixty-five years.

Mr. Cushman was a man of naturally fine abilities, which were further improved by a good education. He exhibited a

sanguine temperament; had great fondness for literature, wherein his reading was somewhat discursive; was accounted a good lawyer and a brilliant advocate; and lacked only the element of self-control to render him a successful business man, and the peer of any of his associates at the bar.

JACOB COLLAMER.

Jacob Collamer, son of Samuel Collamer, was born in Troy, N. Y., on the 8th day of January, 1791, but while yet about four years old removed with his father to Burlington, in this State. He graduated at the University of Vermont in 1810, studied law in St. Albans under Mr. Langworthy and Hon. Benjamin Smith, and was admitted to the bar in 1813. In 1812 he was drafted into the detailed militia service, and served during the period of the draft as lieutenant of artillery in the frontier campaign. Directly after his admission to the bar he opened an office in Randolph, where he remained till 1816. He then established himself in Royalton, in this county, where he continued in practice till 1833. In the fall of that year he was elected one of the judges of the Supreme Court, and retained this position till 1842, when he declined a reelection. In April, 1836, he removed from Royalton to this town, which thenceforth continued his place of residence till his decease in 1865. After retiring from the bench in 1842, he took up once more the practice of the law, and in the fall of 1843 was elected a Representative in Congress,¹ and served by reelections till 1849. In March of that year he was appointed Postmaster General in the cabinet of President Taylor, and resigned, with the rest of the cabinet, in July, 1850, on the death of the President. He was now reappointed to the supreme bench in this State, holding the office till he was elected, in 1854, United States Senator for six years, ending in 1861. At the close of this first term he was again elected for the term ending in 1867, and in the discharge of his duties as Senator was called to serve as chairman of the committee on post-offices and post roads, and as a member of various other important committees. He died in this village the 9th day of November, 1865.²

¹ There were two trials. On the first trial the vote stood: Collamer, 5,825; Ransom, 4,833; Hutchinson, 1,003; scattering, 260. Majority against Collamer, 271. On the second trial Collamer was elected by a majority of 659 over all others.

² For a full sketch of the life and character of Hon. Jacob Collamer, see *Memorial Address* read before the Vermont Historical Society, Oct. 20, 1868, by Hon. James Barrett.

ANDREW TRACY.

In the year 1776 Thomas Tracy moved from Windham, Conn., to the New Hampshire grants, and settled in Hartford. He brought with him a son, James, born in Windham, January 28, 1760. October 22, 1795, James was married to Mercy Richmond, of Barnard, who was born in Taunton, Mass., June 15, 1772. They had several children, among the number, Andrew Tracy, their second child, born in Hartford the 15th day of December, 1797. Andrew, being minded to study a profession rather than follow his father's occupation of a farmer, attended school at the academies in Royalton and Randolph, and, having completed the preparatory studies, entered Dartmouth College, with his intimate friend, Leonard Marsh, as classmate. He remained there two years, at the end of which time his friend Marsh, on account of trouble with his eyes, was obliged to give up study and withdraw from college. Andrew, for some reason preferring not to be separated from his friend, left college at the same time, and the two went together into the State of New York, Andrew finding employment in Troy, where he taught school two years. Then, in obedience to the earnest wish of his father, he came back to Hartford, and in September, 1822, was approbated as a student in the office of George E. Wales on the five-years establishment. While pursuing his studies under Mr. Wales, he acted as postmaster at White River village some portion of the time. At the end of three years the rule of the bar, requiring five years' study from students who had not graduated at some college, was dispensed with in the case of Mr. Tracy, and he was recommended for examination, and was admitted to the bar in 1826, in company with Royal Makepeace Ransom.

After being thus admitted to the bar, Mr. Tracy opened an office in Quechee village, and soon had a fair share of business. In the mean time he became interested in politics, and was elected a member of the legislature from Hartford in 1833, and for the four succeeding years. In those days political affairs did not run so smoothly in Vermont as they do at the present day. Closely contested annual elections, to say nothing of the issues at stake, kept the people alive. At the period of which we are speaking there were three political parties in this State, each styling itself republican; namely, the Jackson Republican, the Na-

tional Republican, and the Anti-Masonic Republican. Mr. Tracy was a National Republican, and when the Whig party was organized in 1834, became a Whig, proving a zealous and efficient member of the party. At the close of the year 1837 he removed from Hartford to Woodstock, and entered into partnership with Norman Williams on the 1st day of January, 1838. This partnership continued till the 15th day of June, 1839, when it was dissolved in consequence of the appointment of Mr. Williams as clerk of the Supreme and County Courts.

Although Mr. Tracy, after removing to Woodstock, gave his chief attention to the business of his profession, he did not lose his interest in politics. Yet even here his concern was mainly in the political movements going on in his own State; nor did he give much heed to the purely national issues, except as they affected the situation and prospects of parties in Vermont. He was an ardent Whig, and engaged earnestly in the discussions which were constantly arising over the political questions of the day; and from his swift and ready way of speaking, from the force and compactness of his expressions, and the keenness of his sarcasm, he was well qualified for such debates. Especially did he always make his presence felt with controlling effect in the legislature whenever he was sent to Montpelier. On being elected to represent this town in 1842, he was made speaker of the House, and was continued in the same position on being re-elected the two succeeding years. During the three sessions he thus presided over that body, it was a frequent remark that good order reigned among the members, they all recognizing the fact that Mr. Tracy occupied the chair, and had an eye for everything going on around him, and a tongue to censure any deviation from the rules and proprieties that ought to govern the House. Also, at the close of the session, the interest was universal to hear his farewell address to the members. On these occasions his impressive manner and the rare felicity of his language attracted large numbers to hear him, and from the pleased listeners his speech drew "audience and attention still as night," as he discoursed briefly upon the themes befitting the hour. In 1852 Mr. Tracy was elected a representative in Congress; but as neither the climate nor the political atmosphere of Washington suited him, at the close of his term of service he declined a

reëlection. He died in this village, Wednesday, the 28th day of October, 1868, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.¹

JULIUS CONVERSE.

Julius Converse was born in Stafford, Conn., December 27, 1798. His parents were natives of the town, and of English descent, and his father followed the occupation of a farmer. In the month of February, 1802, the family moved from Connecticut to Randolph, in this State. Mr. Converse began his education in the district school of the neighborhood where his father lived, and, having finished with this school, he went to the academy at Randolph and fitted for college, but never entered. Having made up his mind to follow the law for a profession, in the year 1823 he entered the office of Hon. William Nutting, of Randolph, who was considered a profound lawyer and an estimable gentleman, but was not an eloquent speaker. After finishing his preparatory studies, Mr. Converse was admitted to the bar in Orange County at the December term of the County Court, 1825. At this period of his life he added to his narrow income by teaching in the district school in Randolph and in other towns near by. He first opened a law office in February, 1826, in the town of Bethel, where he continued to reside for many years. Mr. Converse being a man of popular manners, his pleasing address and excellent abilities soon secured for him a passport to political favor, and in 1833 the people of Bethel chose him their representative at Montpelier. In 1836 he was elected one of the senators for Windsor County, and reëlected to the same position for the three succeeding years. In the month of December, 1840, he removed from Bethel to Woodstock, and entered into partnership with Andrew Tracy. The firm of Tracy & Converse was favored at once with a large amount of professional business, sometimes entering eighty cases in a term. August 20, 1849, James Barrett was admitted as a partner, and the firm of Tracy, Converse & Barrett continued in active professional work till the 25th day of November, 1853, when Mr. Tracy retired from the firm. After this date Converse and Barrett went on in partnership till November, 1857. Mr. Barrett was then

¹ For an exposition of Mr. Tracy's characteristics and standing as a lawyer, see a sketch of his life read at the annual meeting of the Vermont Bar Association at Montpelier, October 28, 1883, by Hon. Warren C. French.

elevated to the Supreme bench, and Warren C. French became a partner with Mr. Converse, and they continued in business together till 1865, when the partnership was dissolved. After that date Mr. Converse did not undertake much new work, but his labors were confined in great measure to closing up the various matters with which at the end of a long professional career he found his business somewhat encumbered. In 1850 he had been elected lieutenant-governor, and again the following year, and in 1872 he was chosen by the people governor of the State. He frequently represented this town at Montpelier.

In 1827 Mr. Converse was married to Miss Melissa Arnold, daughter of Henry Arnold, Esq., of Randolph. She died December 14, 1872, leaving no children. For his second wife Mr. Converse married Miss Jane E. Martin, May 12, 1873, by whom he had one child, Luna Belle Converse, born June 13, 1874. He died at Dixville Notch, N. H., the 16th day of August, 1885.

OLIVER P. CHANDLER.

John Chandler, the grandfather of Oliver P. Chandler, was a physician residing in Newtown, Conn. In the war of the Revolution he supported the patriot cause, and in the early part of the war took the field as colonel of a regiment. In addition to his military experience, he was employed in civil offices to some extent, and at one time was member of the Court of Errors. In 1794 he accompanied his son to Peacham, in this State, and died in the following year.

John Winthrop Chandler, son of the foregoing, intending to follow a professional life, entered Yale College in 1792. After remaining there a year, he was compelled to leave college on account of ill-health. The year after his leaving college he spent mostly in the office of his brother-in-law, Judge Edmunds, where he acquired considerable knowledge of law, which proved of great advantage to him in after-life. With a view to improve his health by outdoor work, in the spring of 1794 he went to Vermont and settled in Peacham. During the following autumn he went back to Connecticut, was married, and returned at once to Peacham with his young wife, making the journey on horseback. Besides the management of a large farm near the village, he was widely employed as a surveyor, and dealt extensively in real estate, more especially in wild land in northern Vermont.

He was several years a member of the legislature, also judge of probate and one of the judges of the County Court, and town treasurer thirty-six years. With his wife he united with the Congregational Church in Peacham, of which Rev. Mr. Worcester was the pastor. She died in 1850, at the age of seventy-nine years. Judge Chandler died at the age of eighty-eight years. Of eight children, three survived to mature age.

Oliver Phelps Chandler, son of John Winthrop Chandler, was born in Peacham, May 29, 1807. Having fitted for college at Peacham Academy, he entered Dartmouth in 1824. His class was numerous for the times, and contained an unusually large proportion of promising young men, worthy of mention for their success in after-life. It is sufficient to name Benjamin Labaree, president of Jackson College and of Middlebury College; Milo Parker Jewett, president of Vassar College; and Ira Young, professor of astronomy in Dartmouth College. Mr. Chandler, after graduating in 1828, read law a short time in the office of Governor Mattocks, at Peacham, and continued his studies at Danville, in the office of Shaw & Chandler. After being admitted to the bar in Caledonia County, he decided to settle in Woodstock, and opened an office in this village in June, 1832. The bar of Windsor County was well supplied with able lawyers at that time, and was considered the strongest in the State; but the prospect of entering into competition with such men as Marsh, Hubbard, Collamer, and Tracy, did not dismay the young advocate. It stimulated him the rather to put forth more vigorous effort, in the hope that he might prove himself worthy to associate with such distinguished members of the profession, and in due time rival them in some of the qualities which gave them honor and reputation at the bar. Nor had he any occasion for discouragement from lack of calls for his professional services. Business at once came in, and the Vermont Reports show that during the following year he had a very considerable practice, which afterwards increased with enlarged experience on his part, and was well sustained so long as he continued to follow his profession. July 13, 1839, he took into partnership Edward H. Billings, who had read law in his office. This partnership existed till the decease of Mr. Billings in the spring of 1844, nor did Mr. Chandler have a partner at any other period of his professional career.

In politics Mr. Chandler was a Whig, and his abilities were often called into active service in support of the party to which he belonged. November 17, 1835, he was elected delegate to the State Convention for acting on the amendments to the Constitution proposed by the Council of Censors. Other candidates for the place were Norman Williams and Isaac N. Cushman, and it was pleasantly remarked at the time, that at the polls many of the freemen had so little preference among the three, they could hardly determine for which to vote. Yet, unexceptionable as were the other candidates, Mr. Chandler was elected by a handsome majority over all. He was a member of the Young Men's Convention which met at Baltimore in the spring of 1840 to ratify the nomination of William H. Harrison for the presidency. Also for several years he represented this town at Montpelier, and in 1849, '50, '52 he was elected a member of the Senate; in these several offices, and in all others bestowed upon him, ever exhibiting an ability and a zeal in the discharge of his duties alike honorable to himself and satisfactory to his constituents. To the maintenance and support of the Whig party he gave indeed the energies of his youth and early manhood, so far as he was called to mingle in the strife of politics. After the Whig party became extinct he united with the Republican party, to which he has adhered with the fidelity exhibited in his earlier political attachments, but with more of the tempered zeal that belongs to mature years.

With the exception of a short period spent in New York, Mr. Chandler has resided continuously in Woodstock from his first establishment here in 1832. For a considerable time past he has given up the practice of the law, and in that regard we may indeed consider him as having come down to us from a former generation. He is the last one left of the noble band of lawyers who, when he first came to this town, occupied seats on the horse-shoe platform constructed for a bar in the old court-house. The house, indeed, with its queer-looking court-room, has long passed away. So, too, excepting this one, have the men passed away who in days gone by were wont to discourse from that platform, before judge and jury, the principles of the law, and made the four walls and arched ceiling of that queer old court-room luminous with displays of the wit, the wisdom, and the sound learning which characterized them as lawyers, and gave them such emi-

ment position, such dignity and worth, as members of the legal profession. *Sic transit*, etc.

These sketches are closed with a brief notice of Major Benjamin Swan, for so many years clerk of the courts in this county.

MAJOR BENJAMIN SWAN.

Thomas Swan, physician, was born in Scotland,¹ educated in England, came to this country and married Mary Lamb, of Roxbury, by whom he had three sons and one daughter, and died, being forty years old. The first son, Thomas Swan, graduated at Harvard University in the year 1689; was a physician at Castle William; married Prudence Wade, of Medford, by whom he had four children, viz., Henry, Thomas, Ebenezer, and Dudley Wade, and then died.

Ebenezer Swan, third son of the second-named Thomas, was captain of a vessel, and followed the London trade. He married Prudence Foster, of Dorchester, by whom he had four sons, viz., Ebenezer, Josiah, Thomas, and William. He died at sea, being about thirty years old. His widow was afterwards married to the Rev. John Prentice, of Lancaster.

William Swan, the youngest son of the first-named Ebenezer, was a gold and silver smith, residing in Boston, where he married Levinah, second daughter of Gershom Keyes. She is represented as having been a woman of much grandeur in her style and manner, and as taking great pride in her family descent. While living in Boston they had five children, and then Mr. Swan, on account of the prevalence of the small-pox, removed from that town to Marlborough, in the county of Middlesex; lived there two years, and then, breaking up once more, removed to Worcester, where he died the 18th day of April, 1774, in the fifty-ninth year of his age. He left a widow and ten children surviving him.

Benjamin Swan, tenth child of the above-named William, and the subject of this sketch, was born in Worcester, Mass., the 12th day of November, 1762. At Worcester and in Boston, Benjamin received a most thorough mercantile education in the house of Messrs. Samuel & Stephen Salisbury, a firm whose standing and credit for a series of years gave them the highest reputation in the commercial community, both in Europe and America, — a reputation never shaken or doubted in the course of their lives,

¹ Some say New England.

which were prolonged to an honorable old age. Mr. Swan was for some time in a mercantile house in Montreal, where he became quite thoroughly versed in the French language, then more generally spoken in Canada than it is at the present day. In 1791 he began business in Woodstock in connection with the Chandlers, as has been related in a former chapter. In the general theory and the various details of the business of a merchant he was probably the best-educated man in Vermont. His unvarying rectitude in all his affairs won for him the confidence of every one, while his cheerful manners and the good-humor with which he enlivened his various business transactions made him a favorite with all classes of the community.

After Mr. Swan retired from mercantile pursuits, he sustained a variety of offices and trusts. For many years he was the principal officiating magistrate in Woodstock, and in the numerous trials of cases which came before him the parties rarely, if ever, resorted to a jury. He was the first postmaster in this town, as is more fully set forth in another place. This office he resigned when other cares engaged his attention. In 1796, on the resignation of General Morris of the office of county clerk, Mr. Swan was appointed to that place, and from that time to his death, a period of forty-three years, retained the position of clerk of the Supreme and County Courts. In the year 1800 he was appointed by the legislature treasurer of the State, and thenceforward, for thirty-two years, the freemen of Vermont honored themselves and reflected honor upon him by electing him annually to that office, and generally without opposition. For a large portion of the time during which he served as treasurer, while banks were still scarce, and poor at that, he acted as a kind of general banker, to whom all classes of people resorted who were wishing to borrow, for an emergency, a moderate sum of money. The following is an instance among many that might be named. When Zadock Thompson was ready to have his first Gazetteer printed, he must needs run in debt for the paper. This was to be made at Wells River. His father said he would go to Benjamin Swan and see if he could raise the money of him. When he mentioned the matter to Major Swan, and asked if he could do the favor, the major answered, "Yes, yes, hum-m-m," and sat down and wrote to the paper-maker thus:—

“ Mr. Thompson wishes to buy fifty dollars' worth of paper for his Gazetteer, for which he shall be good.

“ BENJAMIN SWAN.”

Many of the loans, however, which Mr. Swan made in his function of general banker, proved detrimental to his pocket, if not to his peace of mind. After his decease there was found on the upper shelf of the bookcase in his office a long row of files of notes, embracing many thousand dollars in value, all outlawed, or otherwise wholly worthless, — notes taken for sums of money lent to people in needy circumstances living in the neighborhood, to young men going West, and to various classes of people who called on this patient and forbearing man for help out of some difficulty. From this fact it would appear that the words of Scripture, “from him that would borrow of thee, turn not thou away,” Mr. Swan regarded more in the light of a rule to live by than as merely a piece of fine sentiment.

November, 1804, Mr. Swan married Lucy Gay, daughter of Rev. Ebenezer Gay, of Suffield, Conn. She was born in that town December 18, 1773; was first married to David Bronson, of that town, who survived the marriage but a short time; she died at Ipswich, Mass., October 9, 1852. Major Benjamin Swan died in this village Thursday, the 11th day of April, 1839. Their children were: Benjamin, born August 22, 1805; graduated at the University of Vermont in 1825; studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1828; was appointed postmaster in Woodstock January 18, 1830, holding the office till December, 1839; in the summer of 1841 he went to Owasco, in New York, and set up in trade, remaining there a few years, and presently removed to Colchester, Conn., where he was engaged in the India-rubber-shoe business till his death in 1852; he married Ann Isham, of Colchester. William Gay, born August 19, 1807; died Tuesday, the 19th day of March, 1811, with the spotted fever. Lucy Gay, born October 10, 1810; was married to Lynden A. Marsh, Esq.; is still living in Woodstock. Mary Frances, born April 4, 1813; was married to Rev. Robert Southgate, and died in this village the second day of October, 1867. Two other children died in early infancy.

No man was ever more highly esteemed by the people of this State than Major Benjamin Swan, and no man was ever more

deserving of such esteem. Yet, notwithstanding the regard in which he was held, and the universal deference paid to him, in his deportment and in his heart he was a man of great modesty and humility. This was in keeping with the kind and benevolent spirit he exercised towards all classes of people with whom he came in contact, whether in business affairs or in the private walks of life, the memory of which has not wholly passed away; for even the present generation retains some knowledge of the veneration and esteem their fathers felt for "the virtue and integrity, the exemplary life and Christian character, of Benjamin Swan."

CHAPTER XXVI.

POST-OFFICE.

THE first postmaster in this town was Benjamin Swan, who received his appointment under the administration of John Adams, September 16, 1797. He kept the office in the building he then occupied as store and dwelling-house, which was situated on the Common, and on the spot where now is the residence of Mrs. Allen. In the spring of 1799 Mr. Swan disposed of his interest in the concern of Swan & Chandler to Henry Mower, who took the post-office at the same time. In the fall of that year John Bement, then sixteen years old, came to Woodstock as clerk for Mr. Mower, and, among other duties, the care of the post-office was committed to him. But, the clerk representing that this outside work was an interference with the regular business of the store, Mr. Mower, after holding the office a short time, decided to give it up, and Titus Hutchinson was appointed postmaster in his place, receiving his commission the 25th of April, 1801. The mail at this time left Windsor every Wednesday at 2 P. M., passed through Woodstock, Randolph, and Montpelier, reaching Burlington Friday P. M. Returning, it left Burlington Saturday at 6 A. M., passed through Woodstock, and reached Windsor Monday by 10 A. M. Mr. Hutchinson removed the office to the front room in his dwelling-house, still standing on the corner of Elm Street and the Park. He remained postmaster about three years, then gave up the place to Roger Williams, who removed the office to his red store, opposite Taylor's Hotel, leaving the management of it to his clerk, Safford Eddy.¹

In 1805 Williams went to Randolph to live, but did not give up the post-office till the fall of 1806, when, on his recommendation, John Carlton was made postmaster. Carlton kept the office in his saddler's shop, which stood on the east side of Royalton

¹ Titus Hutchinson, Esq. D.	1 Letter pr mail	.25
To 1 Paper pr mail from 15 August		\$1.32
1804 to 26th Decr 1805 71 weeks	Decr. 25th, 1805.	
at 1½	Recd payment.	S. EDDY.
1.07		

and Woodstock Turnpike, between his dwelling-house and Solomon W. Burk's. Hitherto the mail had run only once a week, but now it began to run twice a week. Carlton kept the office till his death in 1811. A short time before this occurred he sent in his resignation, but Mr. Granger, the Postmaster-General, delayed making any new appointment for several months. In June of this year James Fisk, our Representative to Congress, while staying in Chelsea, received a bond and other papers from Mr. Granger, with a request that he would select some suitable person for postmaster at Woodstock, fill up the blank, and return same to the general post-office. This business Mr. Fisk confided to Titus Hutchinson, with the remark, "put in Alex' name & send it to me, & I will transmit it to Washington."¹ This was accordingly done, and Alexander Hutchinson was appointed postmaster. In the interval that followed upon Mr. Carlton's resignation, and before a new appointment, the office was in charge of Job Lyman.²

When Alexander Hutchinson was appointed postmaster he no doubt removed the post-office from Carlton's building to the three-story brick store, where his brother Titus had an office, occupying the southeast corner room, where to-day is the drug-store of Richmond & Co.³ Some time between 1815 and 1820 he went into company with E. Dunham in the dry-goods business, and the firm occupied the "red store." Hutchinson took the post-office with him, and the office remained here till the firm dissolved partnership in the spring of 1823. After the dissolution of partnership Hutchinson took the office over to the three-story brick store again. He remained postmaster till 1829. About this time the office became a salaried one, and, as a change in postmasters began to be talked of now, many persons thought Mr. Hutchinson ought still to retain the place and receive the benefit of the increased pay, in return for his long and faithful services. But others thought not; and, this being in General Jackson's day, the office was given to Charles Williams. Rufus Colton, editor of the "Woodstock Observer," was indeed accused of changing his political colors at this time for the sake of obtain-

¹ See James Fisk's letter to Titus 1811. To amount of postage due up to Hutchinson, dated Chelsea, June 15, 1811. this day, \$6.06½. Recd pay in full.

² 28. Titus Hutchinson, Esqr. Dr. JOB LYMAN, for Post-Office.

To Post-Office, Woodstock, Vt. July 1, ³ See *Woodstock Observer*, Sept. 29, 1829, Edwin Hutchinson's advertisement.

ing this place, but the charge may have been nothing but scandal, as Colton himself was ready to maintain. Williams removed the office to a room in the present Tracy Block, but he kept it for a short time only, dying on the 6th day of the following October, and Eli Dunham became acting postmaster, and managed the affairs of the office till the appointment of Benjamin Swan, Jr., January 18, 1830. About this time Mr. Edson erected the block in "Edson's Row," which Mr. Eaton used to occupy in after-years. Into this block the post-office was moved, and in fact for some length of time the block itself was styled the "Post-Office Building." During the year 1832 Mr. Swan employed Lester A. Miller as a clerk in the post-office. After serving thus for several years, Mr. Miller was obliged to give up on account of sickness. Under Mr. Grant, who succeeded Mr. Swan, he was again employed as clerk. After an intermission of about four years from the time Mr. Grant went out, he again resumed his place in the office under Mr. Kimball, and remained in the office through all subsequent changes till November, 1875, when, owing to ill health, he retired from duty. During all this period he gave the strictest care and attention to the work he was called to perform, and in all things could be truly described as a good and faithful servant of the public.

About the year 1835 Mr. Swan removed the post-office to the room under Union Hall heretofore used as a store, but then vacant. Here it remained till November, 1839, when Mr. Swan was removed and Gilbert A. Grant, of Windsor, received the appointment. The office was then taken to the cellar under Blish's tin-shop, on Central Street, where it remained till some time in the following summer, when it was taken up to Lyman Mower's store building on the Park, two doors west of the court-house. Mr. Grant's appointment was not acceptable to the people here, and demonstrations to that effect occurred more than once during the campaign of 1840. After the election of General Harrison Mr. Grant was removed, and Joel Eaton came in, who took the office to his own place of business, the old "Post-Office Building," in Edson's Row. He received his commission June 7, 1841; held the office two years, when, refusing to Tylerize further than to take Blair's newspaper, he was removed, and Charles G. Eastman came in. The printing establishment of the "Age" was now in the second story of the Tracy Block, on Elm Street,

and hither the post-office was removed and set up on the lower floor, between Judge Collamer's law office and Rice & Boardman's store, with Mr. Barker as clerk.

In the fall of 1845 Eastman announced his intention of removing from this town, provided he could dispose of his paper. Thereupon a meeting of the prominent members of the Democratic party within the county was called in this village, for the purpose of taking measures to enable E. A. Kimball, Mr. Eastman's foreman, to purchase the paper. This measure having been accomplished at this meeting, it was agreed at the same time that Mr. Kimball should be recommended as Mr. Eastman's successor in the post-office, Eastman agreeing to resign in his favor. Great delay took place in carrying out that part of the arrangement which related to the transfer of the post-office to Mr. Kimball, attended with considerable Democratic censure of Mr. Eastman as the cause of the delay ; but at length the business was effected, and Mr. Kimball received his appointment January 31, 1846.¹ Mr. Kimball continued postmaster till May 10, 1847, when he was appointed captain of a company which had enlisted for the Mexican war, and Porter B. Southgate succeeded him in the post-office. March 19, 1850, under the administration of General Taylor a change took place, and George B. Warren became postmaster, who held the office two years and a half, and then made way for Lester A. Miller. Mr. Miller was appointed by Samuel D. Hubbard, Postmaster-General, October 27, 1852, executed his bond on the 30th of the same month, and received his commission the 6th day of the following November. Mr. Miller's lease of the office was brief, being called upon to make way for Edward M. Brown, editor of the "Spirit of the Age," April 30, 1853, who retained the place till August 31, 1860. In those days of lively political speculation, a split took place in the Democratic party, and Mr. Brown adhered to the Douglas wing. The other wing, prevailing with the authorities at Washington, had him removed, and gave the place to Charles Hutchinson. Luther O. Greene came next, receiving his appointment under President Lincoln, May 10, 1861. Mr. Greene forwarded his bond to Washington with due promptness, but it never reached the department, being lost, in those troubled times, on its way through Baltimore. The bond was thereupon renewed and sent on, this

¹ See letter to the Hon. C. Johnson, Postmaster-General, never printed.

time reaching the department safely, and Mr. Greene received his commission in July. He held the office for two terms, and was then succeeded by Lewis Pratt, who held the office from May 14, 1869, to May 14, 1877, when Luther O. Greene was again appointed. After holding the office one term more, Mr. Greene made way for James H. Murdock in 1881, who in turn made way for William D. McMaster, editor of the "Spirit of the Age," May 14, 1885.

Mr. Greene, on becoming postmaster in 1861, removed the office from the Tracy Block to apartments specially fitted up for that purpose in Gilman Henry's new block on Central Street. Here it remained till the great fire of March, 1867, which destroyed Henry's Hotel and buildings attached, the jail, bank, and Union Hall Block. Immediately after the fire, Mr. Greene put up a new block on the site of the old Union Hall building, and prepared a room in it for the post-office. Meanwhile he found a place for the office in Loring Richmond's saddler's shop.

Under the administration of Benjamin Swan, Sr., the whole number of letters received at the office for the year 1798 was about one hundred and eighty; postage on the same, \$21.67; sent from the office during the same year, about one hundred and twenty letters. At first the mail was to run about once a week, so as to insure four mails during the month. This did not always happen; the mails, for some time, being irregular and uncertain. There was but one mail received at the office in the month of November, 1797, bringing one letter only, and that from Windsor. The mail for July 19, 1798, brought the unusual number of ten letters. When the mails ran regularly, it would take a letter about nine days to come from Boston, and about fifteen days to come from New York. A letter mailed at Rutland the 13th day of August reached Woodstock the 30th of the same month, and this was the only letter received by mail from that town for the entire year 1798. In the same year, eighteen letters in all came from Boston, twenty-eight from New York, and nine from Windsor. In forwarding bank-bills by mail, it was customary to cut the bill in four parts, and forward the several parts by separate mails. It must be borne in mind, however, that the high rates of postage had much to do, at this time, with the small number of letters sent by mail. Yet the forwarding of letters by private hand could not fail to be the occasion, often, of much inconvenience and delay.

Under Titus Hutchinson's administration the business of the office increased some, the postage on letters for the year ending July 1, 1802, amounting to \$138.60, and to \$6.96½ on newspapers for the same time. For the first ten years that Alexander Hutchinson held the office his compensation, pay, and emoluments amounted to about \$136.30 a year.

Letters formerly had the name of the town, and the day of the month when and where mailed, written on the face. A die seems to have been used for the first time in this office not far from the year 1820. It stamped simply "Woodstock, Vt.," and the day of the month was written within the ring. After a while the die was made to stamp the day of the month, as at present.

The post-office in Woodstock became an executive appointment during Mr. Greene's first term of service. His second commission, issued April 25, 1865, was signed by Andrew Johnson, President.

In the post-office may still be seen (or might have been till within a short time) the first set of front boxes used in the office for the accommodation of the public. This was put up by Benjamin Swan, Jr., when he was first appointed postmaster.¹ It remained in use through all the changes that took place in the management and location of the office, till Lester A. Miller became postmaster, who removed it and put up in place a larger and more convenient frame. This frame, thus set up by Mr. Miller, was burnt in the fire of 1867.

NOTE. — The post-office at Taftsville was not established so early, perhaps, by a year, as is stated on page 95. Early in the spring of 1840 application was made to the Postmaster-General Amos Kendall for a post-office to be located in that village. An official answer to this application was received from Robert Johnson, Second Assistant Postmaster-General, saying that a post-office at Taftsville was declined for reasons, etc.; but it was hinted to the applicants at the time, through persons residing in this State then high in authority with the department at Washington, that a post-office *might* be established at Taftsville if a good *administration* man could be selected to take charge of it. Those were Tippecanoe times, and it is indicative of the high degree of political excitement then prevailing everywhere in the country, that this proposition was repudiated with great indignation by the Taftsville people. They

¹ Lester A. Miller.

exhibited their feelings upon the subject by suspending a banner over the road leading through the village from Woodstock to Hartford, on which were neatly painted the inscriptions: "HARRISON AND REFORM — ONE TERM — OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITY — NO MORE GRANTS FROM AMOS KENDALL." Some of the young men on the Green, in passing that way to a political gathering to be held at Hartford, took special notice of this banner, and "cabbaged" it on their return from the convention, thinking the joke too good to lose; and, having brought it up to this village, carried it about the streets, a crowd of boys following. The banner was kept on exhibition two or three days, to the great amusement of all parties; but some time during the twelvemonth the Taftsville people must have got their post-office.¹

¹ See *Vermont Mercury* for April 24 and May 1, 1840.

CHAPTER XXVII.

BRIDGES OVER THE QUECHEE.

THERE being no bridges over the Quechee within the limits of this town for several years after its first settlement, the people of the neighborhood, in passing to and fro, crossed the stream at different fording-places, three of which have been described in a former chapter. The question of building a bridge seems to have been considered in town meeting for the first time at the March meeting in 1779, but nothing was done then, nor was anything done in the matter for three years to come. At length at a town meeting held the 8th day of April, 1782, it was voted "to build a Bridge A Crofs Quechee River between Mr. Rufus Carpenters and William Fullers." Here the matter rested till after Woodstock was made the shire town of the county and the court-house built, when a bridge over the river at some point on the Common became a matter of public necessity. In town meeting, therefore, September 4, 1787, it was voted to petition the General Assembly for liberty to lay a land-tax of threepence per acre on all lands in Woodstock, to be laid out in building bridges and repairing roads in said town. This petition the Assembly granted at the session held in Newbury the following October, fixing the tax at twopence on the acre, and excepting the public lands. Then, on the 19th day of the next November, the town voted "to erect a bridge A Crofs Quechee River near the fordway above Capt. Richardson House in Woodstock ;" also "to reconsider a former vote to erect a bridge nigh William Fullers Rocks." Accordingly a bridge over the Quechee was put up, if not the following summer, then as soon as might be, considering the difficulties attending such an enterprise at that time. In accordance with the vote of the town it was located near the site of the present middle bridge, its westerly end being about fifty-three rods from the northeast corner of "the pine-tree lot," as would appear from Stephen Powers's deed of said lot to

Standish Day in 1791. At the March meeting in that same year, the committee appointed to build said bridge gave notice that they were ready to make report of their doings, and it is supposed did make report accordingly.

This first bridge over the Quechee was a weak and imperfect structure. It had no abutments, but was supported on trestles and was quite long. Moreover, the bed of the river at this point was precipitous and the current rough, and in consequence of all these untoward circumstances the bridge itself was troubled with a chronic complaint of being out of fix in some part. Hardly was it finished and put to use before there was a call for repairs. This caused a confusion of ideas in the general mind, and when the question began to be discussed about raising money for such repairs, the town as a whole had opinions, and many people thought that those who lived nearest the bridge and were most accommodated by it had the chief interest in the affair, and ought to be at half the expense of keeping it up. Consequently, at a town meeting held the 24th of June, 1793, a tax was voted of one penny on the pound on the list of 1792 for the purpose of making repairs on said bridge, on condition, however, that an equal sum could be obtained by subscription "for the purpose aforesaid;" and if the subscription was not filled up by such a time, then said vote was to be considered null and void. A favorite way with the good people of those times for obtaining money, or, as they called it, "raising the wind," for any particular object, such as building bridges, supporting colleges, or constructing turnpikes, was by setting up a lottery, authority and license for the same being first had and obtained from the Legislature.¹ Such a grant was obtained in March, 1797, by Benjamin Swan and Moses Osgood, to raise five hundred dollars by a lottery for the purpose of building a bridge over the Quechee. This effort came to nothing, but during the next summer a subscription paper drawn up by Mr. Swan was circulated, which reads thus: —

¹ At the October session of the Legislature for the year 1792, an act was passed granting leave to Anthony Haswell to raise the sum of two hundred pounds, by lottery, to repair injuries by him sustained in the destruction of his printing apparatus and other property, in Rutland,

by fire. Haswell first asked for a loan of money; but his petition having been considered in grand committee, a resolution was taken not to loan money for private use, and the committee adjourned without discounting Haswell's note.

"We the subscribers whose names are hereunto annexed do promise and agree to pay to Jabez Bennet the several sums set against our names for the purpose of Building a Bridge near the Court House where the old Bridge stands the pay to be made to the said Jabez in Meterials for Building the said Bridge or any other pay to his acceptance."

WOODSTOCK, 24th July, 1797.

Benj. Swan	20 Dollars
Jason Richardson	30 "
Stephen Powers Jr	30 "
Elmer Darbe	10 "
Moses Osgood	10 "
J. D. Powers	10 "
John Hurlbut	3 "
Israel Richardson Jr	4 "
William Rice	10 "
Nath'l Johnson	10 "
James Pearce	10 "

All these efforts to raise money must have accomplished something, and the bridge was finally rebuilt at a point up the stream a few rods above its former site. The east end of it came up behind Mr. Mellish's house, and the west end rested on the bank a little above the old schoolhouse on River Street. The approach to the bridge from the Common was over the passway between Isaac Warren's house and Dr. Powers's house. It was supported by three trestles and was built without abutments. In fact, it might in some respects be regarded as a superior sort of foot-bridge, and, like its predecessor, was constantly calling for repairs, which were made on it sometimes at an expense of twenty dollars, then again to the amount of a hundred dollars. At last it was swept away by a flood, which ended all further calls for repairs in this department for many years.

Tradition states that the destruction of this bridge was caused by the flood of July, 1811, but with such statement the town records conflict. At a town meeting held the 4th day of September, 1810, it was voted, "that the selectmen be directed to examine the condition of the roads that are damaged by the late freshet in the several districts and such as in their opinion ought to have help from the town in repairing the same they are further directed to draw an order on the Treasurer for the bene-

fit of such districts for such sum as they think just and equitable considering the whole of the damaged districts collectively." At the March meeting for 1811 the matter came up again, on which occasion a tax was voted "of one Cent on the dollar on the present List & one Cent on the dollar on the List next taken & one Cent on the dollar on the List next after that paid into the Town Treasury the June following the date of each List afores^d for the purpose of building a bridge over Quechee River between the Turnpike Bridge & Chandlers Mills." Voted also a committee of fifteen "to view the river and banks thereof and direct the particular place where to build said bridge and advise with the agents or contractors respecting the form of building, &c." This committee consisted of the following persons: Jabez King, Jesse Williams, Charles Marsh, Stephen Paddock, Titus Hutchinson, James Slayton, Jabez Bennett, Gaius Perkins, Samuel Daman, William Ellis, George Raymond, Jonas Matthews, George Lake, Jr., James Cobb, and Benjamin Swan. And lastly, Jabez Bennett, Charles Marsh, and David Dutton were appointed agents to superintend the taxes for building the said bridge on the place that might be directed as aforesaid.

"In pursuance of these proceedings a contract was made January 2, 1812, by Jabez Bennett and Charles Marsh, building committee, with John Raymond, Jr., to build a bridge near Chandler's Mills, the work to be completed by the fifteenth day of the following July. Raymond was not to receive any payment until the bridge was completed to the satisfaction of the committee, and he was to be paid for the job the sum of three hundred dollars."

The bridge built near Chandler's Mills, pursuant to the foregoing contract, lasted ten years, when a new one was required. This new one, put up in the fall of 1822, stood just six years, and then was carried off by the freshet of September 4, 1828, which at the same time swept out the west abutment. No time was lost in beginning the work of repairing the damages caused by this flood. The west abutment was relaid under the direct charge of Simon Warren, who spared no pains to have this piece of work thoroughly done. His own remark while employed upon it was that very likely the town would grumble over the cost, but he did not intend they should have occasion to complain at the quality of the work. The bridge itself was framed and put up by John Bement, at the expense of three hundred dollars.

This bridge remained ten years, and then was taken down, and Ethan Cushing put up in place of it what was called an X pine bridge, John A. Pratt furnishing the lumber. This was the first covered bridge erected in the town.

When the river broke up, in March, 1846, the ice knocked out the east abutment of this bridge, and the gulying was so severe that the rock on which the abutment rested was removed from its foundation, and never seen afterwards. Again Simon Warren and Nathan Cushing were appointed a committee to repair damages. They relaid the east abutment in the solid and substantial manner the work had been done on the west abutment eight years before. A Mr. Twitchell, brother to Elder Twitchell, of Barnard, was engaged to build the bridge. He had a man under him to hew the timber who did his work as handsomely as if he had used a smoothing-plane. This bridge was every inch of it framed before a single piece of timber was put in its proper place, and, when set up, came together in all its joints like waxwork. It still stands.

A few rods above Aaron Whitney's shop, on the north bank of the river, may yet be seen the remains of a log abutment to a bridge that once spanned the river at this place. The logs are still in perfect preservation, and even a plank pinned to two of them, to keep them in place, is as sound as ever, pins and all.¹ This abutment was laid eighty years ago, and a bridge put up here by Jabez Bennett, whom the present generation has well-nigh forgotten. The bridge was a great convenience to the public at the time. It stood a few years, and then was swept away, one spring, by the ice. It was rebuilt forthwith by Mr. Bennett. One winter, when the snow was very deep, the bridge got overloaded, and, giving away under the pressure, it fell flat on the ice. This accident happened in the evening, and some time during the winter of 1802-1803.² The bridge was never rebuilt after this, but, twenty years later, a sort of pontoon bridge was used for some time by the people of the neighborhood in crossing back and forth at this point.

Not a great while after the fall of the bridge at Bennett's

¹ Stated in 1869; all gone by since then.

² John W. Bradley, who lived on the Flat at the time; but his memory was un-

certain as to the year, when speaking of the accident; although he thought it must have taken place at the season named in the text.

Mills, the town employed Mr. Bennett to build one at the Williams place, two miles further up the stream. Here was a busy spot in those days, and the people of the neighborhood wanted a bridge, and got one. The road then passed below Judge Williams's house, across the point of an island in the river. Here a bridge was built over the two channels of the river, with a space of five or six rods between the parts. It was supported by trestles. In the spring of 1807, perhaps, during the month of April, when the river broke up, the ice got locked in huge masses for a long distance above and below this bridge. After resting in this position a few days, it passed along down, taking the bridge with it. In 1809 the bridge was rebuilt. Trestles were now dispensed with, and, to supply the place of these, good stone abutments were put up by Elisha Royce. The wood part was constructed by Nathaniel Smith, one of the best workmen ever in this town. The stringers were of pine brought from Hartford; the posts, three in number on a side, were of red elm, the braces of beech, and the caps of spruce. The timber was all of the best quality, and the bridge when completed was the pride of the neighborhood. A better one never spanned the Quechee.

It was the 11th of July, 1811. Though the morning was not very promising, Ichabod Churchill and his sons went out to mow grass. Suddenly the sky clouded up and the rain fell fast, but soon it cleared off again and seemed to give promise of fair weather. Again the rain came down in floods, with another interval of sunshine after it. So it continued through the day, — torrents of rain, interrupted by intervals of sunshine. By four in the afternoon the river began to rise very fast. Mr. Churchill told the boys to hurry and get the cows up, which were on the other side of the stream; and, as the river was already too high to be forded, to drive them round by the bridge. As the boys crossed the bridge with the cows, Judge Williams, Timothy Taft, and others of the neighbors were standing on it, watching the waters, and expressing a hope that the bridge would not be carried off. Just then there was a cracking under their feet, and Timothy Taft started for the shore, followed by the rest. As they turned round and looked under the bridge for the trouble, it fell into the stream and passed down the current.

This bridge was not rebuilt, but a high foot-bridge was set up on the old abutments, which was used by foot-passengers many

years. In 1834 the honorable county court ordered a bridge to be built at Jesse Williams's. A town meeting was held the 19th of July, at which it was voted that the selectmen be instructed not to build, during that year, the bridge ordered to be built by the county court near Jesse Williams's, the town agreeing at the same time to see them harmless from all liability under the statute in such case provided. However, the bridge was built by Jabez Bennett, then eighty years old, who received \$1,000 for the job. It was located fifty rods further up the stream than the previous one. Since this bridge of Bennett's was put up two others have been built at the same place; the last one by B. F. Southgate, in 1851.¹

The main facts concerning the first two bridges at the Williams place are given on the authority of Mr. Nathan T. Churchill.

After the bridge near the court-house was swept away, in 1811, no steps to rebuild at this point were taken for many years, and only an occasional foot-bridge was constructed, for the accommodation of the few who lived on the opposite or west side of the river. By the year 1839 River Street, however, had come to be built up and occupied to some extent, and the people along the line of the street began to urge the necessity and propriety of establishing a bridge once more near the court-house. At the March meeting in the above named year it was voted "that the selectmen be directed to appropriate one hundred and Twenty five dollars to assist in building the bridge near the court-house, to be paid by the highway district in which Lyman Mower and John A. Pratt are surveyors, out of the highway taxes." Accordingly a bridge was put up the following summer. It was a poor affair, but answered all purposes for about five years, when it was swept away by a spring flood.

At the March meeting, 1845, an effort was made to get the town to rebuild this bridge, or some part thereof; but after some discussion the article in the warning relating to this matter was dismissed. However, a special town meeting was held the 3d day of June following, to see what course the town would take "in regard to building a bridge across the river near the

¹ November 18, 1869. The bridge built on the same site, at an expense of about \$3,500. by Southgate was carried off in the flood of October, 1869, and a new one erected

court-house," the result being that the selectmen were directed to repair or build anew, as they in their discretion judged most expedient, and "to answer all the purposes contemplated in the order of the court in opening the road." Once more, therefore, a bridge went up at this point; but its existence, so to speak, was short, as it was carried off by a flood of water and ice, which came down the river in the month of March, 1846, sweeping all before it. The bridge was put up again, however, the next summer, in a style similar to the one near William G. Smith's. This new affair stood three years, and then one day, in the month of August, perhaps, and in the year 1849, about midday, without advice or encouragement from any one, so far as is known, but apparently of its own accord, it broke in pieces and tumbled into the stream below. At the time this singular performance took place, John Cone was driving his stage across the bridge, luckily with only one small boy as passenger. The whole concern — stage-coach, horses, Cone, and all — went down together, amid the crashing timber, and, strange to say, without receiving any serious damage in the fall.

After this casualty the bridge was rebuilt in the summer of 1850, in a more substantial manner than heretofore, and was covered, costing in the construction about \$650. It continued in service till the flood of October 4, 1869, on which occasion it was considerably shattered and wrenched out of its bearings, but was not carried away. In consequence of the strain put upon it by the flood, it was pronounced unsafe for teams, and the roof and sides were stripped off, leaving nothing but the bare frame. As the chief trouble with the bridge at this point arose from the settling and sliding of the east abutment, it was determined to make the foundation for it firm, if possible, by driving a series of piles. This was done, and one hundred and thirty-nine in number, from twenty-eight to thirty feet in length, were driven; a long and tedious job, as it turned out. On this foundation the abutment was relaid the following summer, the first tier of stones reaching across the entire width of the abutment, the bridge straightened, and on the north side of it a walk constructed for foot-passengers. Saturday, August 27, 1870, the bridge was reopened to the public. The establishment, as thus repaired, maintained a rickety existence till the year 1877, when it was replaced by the present elegant and substantial iron bridge.

In the month of January, 1796, Charles Marsh and Jesse Williams bought of Captain Richardson twenty-five acres of land on Woodstock Green, bounded southerly by the highway leading from the Common to James Emerson's, easterly by lands claimed by Moses Barnett and others, northerly by the centre of the deepest channel of Quechee River, and westerly by the high bank of the river up as far as the Common once more. A thick growth of trees covered the most of this tract of land at the time of the purchase. From a point in the highway near Captain Wilder's new house a road was opened the following year to the river, as surveyed by Oliver Williams, and a bridge thrown across the river the same season. This bridge was laid on log abutments, and probably was not an expensive concern. While they were building it, Mr. Joseph P. Palmer one day, as he was observing the work, stepped out on a sliding plank that reached over the north abutment, and the plank yielding under his weight, let him down on the rock, twenty-one feet below. Mr. Marsh, in a letter to Royall Tyler, written soon after, relates further concerning the matter: "The fall so fractured his forehead, besides dislocating his knees, that all measures taken for his relief proved abortive. The most able surgeons in this part of the country were sent for, the operation of trepanning was performed by Dr. Gates, of Hanover, but to no purpose. He died at my house, on Monday, the 25th, a little before six in the morning." This accident occurred Thursday afternoon, the 21st day of June, 1797.

Mr. Palmer was born in Boston, in 1750. He was one of the party of fifty or more who, on the night of the memorable 16th of December, 1773, boarded the tea-ships in Boston harbor, and scattered their cargoes in the sea. He took an active part, also, in the stirring scenes at Lexington and Concord, two years later, and showed a patriot's spirit through the whole of the Revolutionary struggle. After the war was over, strange and untoward circumstances in his life had caused that in the course of a few years he should find his way to Woodstock, where he was engaged, at the time of the accident, in teaching a small private school, and was boarding at Mr. Marsh's house.

November 7, 1800, an act was passed by the legislature establishing a corporation by the name of the Royalton and Woodstock Turnpike Company. The said company, after the road

was laid out and surveyed for the turnpike, took possession of the above-named bridge, in the transfer making some changes and improvements upon it. The log abutments were taken away, and in their place good, substantial abutments of stone erected. This piece of work was intrusted to Jacob Wilder, and the cost of the work was a thousand dollars, even in those days of cheap labor and abundance of material near at hand. The bridge, as repaired or rebuilt by the turnpike company, stood for a few years, and then was carried off by a freshet, in the month of April, 1807, perhaps; as the ice, one day in that month, rose very high in the river, and in its progress down the stream destroyed the bridge at Taft's Mills. After this, Seth Hodges put up a new one, propping it by means of a trestle and eight braces, four on each side. Two of these braces rested in the trestle and two in the abutments, meeting above in the sleeper. The sides of the bridge were guarded by a low railing.

In the hot, sickly season of July, 1811, this bridge, removed from its foundations by the great flow of water in the channel of the river, floated down the current and was seen no more. The break in the turnpike road caused by its departure was promptly repaired, as along the line of this road was a great amount of travel all the year round. But bridges at the foot of Elm Street have been proverbial for rapid decay, and in course of eight years William and Barna Raymond removed the rotten sills, beams, and braces of this last affair, and put in new ones. The new concern put up by the Raymonds went to decay even more rapidly than its predecessor, and an inward wasting soon penetrated every joint, so that the whole structure shook when a carriage passed over it. Jabez Bennett put a trestle under the sleepers to give them a little firmness, but this did not help the matter much; and the bridge, in its last stages, became a terror to the neighborhood, lest some poor traveller, in passing over it, should wreck the concern and perish in the general ruin. Finally, two young men of the village went out one night to put an end to this state of things, if it were possible. They calculated, by means of levers, to pry off some of the stones at the top of the south abutment, and make them fall on the foot of the braces, so as to break these away. Could they but accomplish this, they reckoned the rickety framework would not be long in following. They applied the levers and tugged to dislodge the stones; but,

as neither of the young men happened to be a Samson or a Hercules, their efforts in this direction advanced no further than to dislodge a few loose rocks ; and, soon getting tired of such fruitless labor, they left in disgust.

This bridge had one peculiar feature in its construction : along the two stringers posts were set opposite each other, and these posts were fastened together in pairs by beams passed across overhead. What was the object of this cross-fastening observers at the time did not know, but conjectured that it was to furnish a roosting-place for travel-worn turkeys while on their way to market, as this was the only use they were ever known to be put to.

About 1827, a new bridge was put up by a Mr. Woodbury, under the superintendence of Amos Bosworth. It was snugly built, clapboarded, and painted red on the outside, and on the inside painted yellow. It had four braces under each end. This is the renowned "old red bridge," — our boyhood's delight, the memory of which promises to be as imperishable as the fabric of the Pyramids. Already more than fifty years have gone by since it disappeared from the eyes of men, yet so great was its fame while in being, and so permanent have been its traditional glories, that it has fixed its name to every structure put up on the same site since it passed away.¹ It lasted, indeed, not more than seven or eight years, being much too beautiful for this world, and then was replaced by a bridge with king-posts, built by Mr. Gay, of Royalton.

After the bridge with king-posts came the last one erected by the turnpike company on this site. It was framed by Solomon Emmons, under the charge of David Bosworth, no one can tell when exactly, though the work was done not a very long time ago. Let us put the date at 1841, and leave it for somebody to correct who knows for a certainty. After the bridge became the property of the town, it was covered by Barna Thompson. In November, 1849, it was thoroughly repaired under the direction of the selectmen, and a portion of the north abutment was

¹ The evidence is that the "red bridge" gave way in 1834. A team freighted with merchandise for Barnard or Bethel undertook to cross it some time in the spring of that year. After advancing on the south end of the bridge about a rod,

the hind wheel of the team broke through, spilling portions of the merchandise, including boxes of oranges, on the bridge and down through the hole in the bridge, on the beach below.

relaid. In 1857 the south abutment was rebuilt from the foundation, by Mr. Foster, and a covered bridge was erected by Ammi White. This bridge was swept away by the great flood of October 4, 1869, and lodged on an island in the river, near Judge Porter's. The work of rebuilding was begun the same season. The north abutment was relaid by Harvey Lockwood, and set back several feet. The south abutment, which had been overthrown by the flood, was also set back several feet. As the ground is all quicksand here, a pile-driver was procured from Boston, and piles, mainly of spruce, and twelve to fifteen feet long, were driven for a foundation. The work of driving these piles was commenced the 11th of November, and finished the 3d of December, and one hundred and thirty-one were driven in all. The east corner-stone of this south abutment was laid the 2d day of the same month. This stone, weighing five tons and measuring twelve feet, was drawn from the Flats. By the 8th of the month the bottom stones were all laid, twelve in number. On the 11th of the month further labor on the abutments was suspended for the season, on account of the cold. The work thus far had been done under the superintendence of Nathan Cushing, selectman. The following spring the abutments were completed under charge of Edwin C. Emmons, and an iron bridge was erected, which still remains.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

BOOKS AND LIBRARIES, AND ESPECIALLY THE NORMAN WILLIAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY.

TIMOTHY KNOX and James Sanderson, the first persons to enter in and occupy this goodly land, are reputed to have been great readers of books. This does not mean that they brought books with them when they first came into the town. The first book brought into this town, of which there is any knowledge, was Joab Hoisington's "grate Bible," which came with the family in 1772; probably an English publication, and much like the one Dr. Stephen Powers brought with him two years later, which still remains in this town in possession of his grandson. After Hoisington died in 1777, his Bible passed to his widow, and was retained by her when she was married a second time to Captain Strong. She carried it with her when the family removed, about 1804, to the banks of the Ottawa, in Lower Canada, and there it was burnt in the house of Mr. Burtch in 1840.

It is safe to assume that for several years after the town was settled the chief books to be found among the settlers were copies of the Scriptures, to which might be added an occasional psalm-book and school-book. When Rev. Aaron Hutchinson came in 1776, he brought his library with him, consisting indeed of few books, but all of solid character, among them a Greek testament and dictionary and a copy of Matthew Henry's Commentary. But the reverend gentleman with his prodigious memory was a walking library in himself; and he took a newspaper besides, from which he was accustomed to read to the people, between the services on Sundays, the news of the day. With the advent of Mr. Daman in 1781, a few more books were added to the general stock, quite few probably, as a pastor's library in those days was very scant. With his Bible Dr. Stephen Powers may have brought in 1774 a medical work, perhaps more than one, into town; yet the

doctor all his life cared as little for books as did his son after him in the same profession, and like the other pioneers in this wilderness considered them for the most part an incumbrance. When, in 1788, Woodstock was made the county seat, a moderate impulse may have been given to the diffusion of general literature, but moderate only, as the one or two lawyers who practiced before the court were too busy and too poor to be literary, and the judges who presided for the first ten or fifteen years were taken from the ranks and did not claim to be learned in the law. Yet the period from 1790 to 1800 was one of great ferment in this community, and the spread of reading-matter was largely increased in consequence. This consisted chiefly of newspapers, broadsides, controversial pamphlets, and printed sermons, and, what is rather surprising, poetry of native growth, verses actually composed by residents on these hills, and in considerable quantities.

From an early day all the stores in town kept for sale a small assortment of books, chiefly Bibles, psalm-books, and school-books. When Dr. Gallup opened, in 1800, his drug store on the Green, to his drugs and medicines he added "a handsome assortment" of miscellaneous books, which he offered for sale at Boston retail prices. This was a bold step for the doctor, nor could his sales have been large in this department; but the demand for books was increasing, schools were now well established throughout the town, and in connection with them numerous school-exhibitions were held, which for many years were a great source of amusement and instruction to the fathers. The legal profession also had by this time come to be well represented, and the example of Charles Marsh, Nicholas Baylies, and Titus Hutchinson, men of scholarly habits, was sure to encourage in the people at large an esteem and a taste for literature. In the mean time, although the desire for reading was widespread and ever on the increase, the means for purchasing books were confined to the few, and most people got their reading in some other way. Borrowing books was a universal practice, and in this way a single book was made to multiply itself manifold. This practice, so agreeable to the borrower, was often a grievous vexation to the lender, who found that his precious treasures, when once out of his hands, had gone on a long journey and might never

come back, and as a last resort for their recovery he was obliged to advertise for them in the public print.¹

So far as known, the first circulating library established in town was opened in this village the twenty-third day of July, 1821, by Charles Henry and Isaac N. Cushman. They soon gave it up, and it passed into the hands of Nahum Haskell, when it became known as "Haskell's Circulating Library," and was conducted by Mr. Haskell till his death in 1867, and is still kept up on a somewhat reduced scale. August 26th, 1828, R. Colton & Co. opened "The Franklin Circulating Library," which continued a few years and then was absorbed in Mr. Haskell's concern, or was otherwise scattered. About the year 1835, O. C. King opened a circulating library at the house of Eben King, near the foot of Pleasant Street. This library was quite moderate in the number of volumes, and embraced chiefly such works of fiction as "Children of the Abbey," "The Three Spaniards," "Hungarian Brothers," "Thaddeus of Warsaw," and other books of similar character for the young people to cry over. It did not continue in operation many years.

The first week in April, 1855, chiefly through the exertions of Dr. William H. Thayer of the medical school, a book club was formed in the village of Woodstock, by the voluntary association of twenty persons, to wit:—Norman Williams, R. H. Bailey, Charles Chapman, Julius Converse, Oel Billings, Lyndon A. Marsh, Jonathan Clement, Charles Marsh, George R. Chapman, Eliakim Johnson, Jacob Collamer, Joseph Dana, Nahum Haskell, Peter T. Washburn, William H. Thayer, Solomon Woodward, Benjamin Walker, M. A. Herrick, Daniel A. Stearns, Oliver P. Chandler.

The club was organized by appointing the following persons a standing committee, viz: William H. Thayer, M. A. Herrick, Mrs. Oel Billings, Mrs. Geo. R. Chapman; Miss Frances Woodward, librarian and treasurer.

¹ "BOOKS MISSING. — Whoever has borrowed of the subscriber the following books, viz., — Naval Monument, Hudibras, Grass' Journal, Peter the Great, Exiles of Siberia, Paul and Virginia, Thompson's Seasons, Life of Putnam, Antiquary, Charlotte Temple, Champions of Freedom, 2d vol. of the Abbot, Fergu-

son's Astronomy, 3 volumes of Plays, and several other books, will confer a favor by returning them, so that the subscriber can have the pleasure of lending them to some other of his friends.

JOHN A. PRATT.

January 31, 1826."

To the foregoing list of officers for the club, a president and secretary were added at the annual meeting in April, 1858. During the first year fifty-four books were purchased, selected from new publications, including three periodicals, namely, "Living Age," "Household Words," and "London Punch." From the outset it has been the custom with the club at the annual meeting to sell at auction among the members such books as have passed round, the fruits of the sale being added to the annuity for membership to form a fund for the purchase of new books. The club is still in operation, and as the number of members is limited, other clubs of like character have sprung up within a few years. All these institutions help to swell the volume of literature that is yearly read and distributed among the several families in the town, so that there is now no dearth of books in this community.

The first public library in Woodstock was formed at the South Village the twenty-sixth day of January, 1797, as has been related elsewhere. How early a public library was started in the North Village¹ is not known. An institution called the "Woodstock Library Society" was in operation in this village as early as 1820, and seems to have been organized that year, but beyond this nothing further on that point can now be determined. This library was never large,—a bookcase four feet by seven contained the whole contents; but the selections were all made from first-class authors, viz.: Gibbon, Hume, Scott, Cooper, and the like. The society was sustained about twenty years and then broke up and the books were scattered.

On the third day of October, 1862, was organized the "Woodstock Agricultural, Horticultural, and Mechanical Association," under the direction of John Raynolds, Establisher of Agricultural Libraries, Concord, Mass. Its officers consisted of a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, chosen annually by ballot. The annual meeting of the association was held on the first Wednesday in October of each year, for the election

¹ The limits of the North Village are recorded in the town clerk's office and set out in the provisions of a general statute passed November 11, 1819, entitled "An act to restrain certain animals from running at large within the villages of this State." These limits are recognized in the chapter of incorporation of

the village, which is an act passed by the General Assembly, November 11, 1836, on the petition of Charles Marsh and sixty-three others, entitled "An act incorporating the village of Woodstock," under which the village was organized on the first Monday in January, 1837.

of officers, etc. Connected with the association was an "Agricultural Library," embracing some less than one hundred volumes, which were open to the use of each member in proportion to the number of shares he owned in such library. This association or Farmers' Club, as sometimes called, was sustained for several years, then fell into disuse, and in due course of time the books in the library itself were made over to the Norman Williams Public Library.

After the dissolution of the old Woodstock Library Society, a long interval elapsed before any renewed effort was made to form a public library in this village. At length, on the twenty-fourth day of August, 1878, pursuant to steps already taken, twenty-seven young ladies met at the house of Mrs. Mary Hunt and were organized into an association, having for its object the establishment of a public library in the village of Woodstock. The plan of operations adopted at this meeting embraced the giving of entertainments and exhibitions, from time to time, for the purpose of raising funds to carry out the enterprise, and the first effort in this direction was a lawn party, held the Wednesday then next, at Mrs. Hunt's house. The plan was earnestly and successfully followed up; funds were soon raised with which to make a beginning, a library society was organized, books were purchased, contributions flowed in, and the new Woodstock Public Library became an established fact. The institution went on increasing in number of books and growing in public favor for a period of about six years, when, with the consent of those interested, it was merged in the Norman Williams Public Library.

THE NORMAN WILLIAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Early in the year 1883, the old Norman Williams homestead, being no longer occupied by any of the family, one of the sons, Dr. Edward Higginson Williams, of Philadelphia, formed the noble purpose of having the old buildings removed, and of erecting in their place a library building, as a memorial of his father and mother, to be called in honor of them "The Norman Williams Public Library," to be devoted to the purpose of providing for the people of his native town and of its vicinity the use for all time of a public library and reading-room, in which purpose he was encouraged by the approval and hearty sympathy of the other members of the family.





With Dr. Williams to conceive was to execute, and in the winter of 1884-85 the building was completed, and there now stands upon the beautiful site of the old Williams mansion one of the finest and most complete library buildings in the State, arranged internally and externally in admirable proportions both for ornament and for the uses for which it was designed.

To make his purpose more secure, Dr. Williams has placed in the hands of trustees an endowment fund, which will yield perpetually an annual income of two thousand dollars, to be used for the current expenses, and any surplus to be expended in the purchase of books.

This library building, with a capacity for about 15,000 volumes, has now (1888) upon its shelves about 6,000 mostly very valuable books, including about 3,000 contributed by Dr. Williams, and about 2,000 given by the ladies' "Woodstock Library Association," with large contributions by Norman Williams, Esq., Mr. John Crerar, and many other friends of the institution. The number is constantly increasing, and will doubtless continue to increase in time to come.

The reading-room is being constantly supplied with all leading English and American magazines, journals of art, of science, of agriculture, of field sports, etc., besides foreign newspapers.

The grounds about the building have shade trees and are kept in excellent condition. It is needless to say that this scheme of Dr. Williams has already proved to be an entire success, and that the Williams library with its expanding means and increasing influence will long remain a great benefit to the community, and that those who shall hereafter come to drink at this fountain will not forget to bless the name of the generous donor.

On the occasion of Dr. Williams' first visit to Woodstock after the opening of the library, a reception was given to him by the citizens of the town in the library building, Wednesday evening, September 30, 1885, which was largely attended, and was a most delightful occasion. An account of it appeared the next day in the "Vermont Standard," which is here transcribed.

"The reception given to Dr. and Mrs. Edward H. Williams on Wednesday evening was very largely attended. Although the day was stormy and the surrounding hill-tops were covered with snow, the rooms of the Norman Williams Public Library building were crowded with residents of Woodstock and vicinity,

anxious to testify their appreciation of the beneficence of Doctor Williams in bestowing upon this community a public library unique in all its appointments and generously provided with means for its maintenance for all time. The different rooms of the building were adorned with every variety of fern, autumn leaves, and wild flowers, together with tropical and other greenhouse plants, while at the east end of the book-room was a motto in evergreens, "Welcome Home." These decorations were arranged with exquisite taste by a committee of which our gifted artist, Mr. John M. Marble, was chairman. Both instrumental and vocal music were given during the evening by Murdock's orchestra and a quartet of male voices.

"The guests were presented to Dr. and Mrs. Williams by Hon. Charles P. Marsh, in the reading-room. Dr. and Mrs. Williams were attended by the following members of their family: their daughter, Miss Anna Williams, of Philadelphia; Mr. and Mrs. Norman Williams, of Chicago, and their children, Misses Laura and Mary Wentworth, and Master Norman; Mrs. Thatcher Tucker, a sister of the late Mrs. Norman Williams, Mrs. Charles B. Caldwell, and Mr. Wyllys Taylor, of Montclair, N. J.; Miss Anna Higginson, of Brattleboro'; Mrs. Lucia W. A. Goodwin, daughter of the late Hon. Hezekiah Williams, and her niece, Miss Gertrude Dement, of Springfield, Ill., and Mrs. Dr. Thayer, of Burlington.

"The welcome to Dr. Williams on this his first visit to Woodstock since the opening of the library was a warm and hearty one, and the reception was an ovation which will long be remembered. In the latter part of the evening, the Hon. O. P. Chandler, vice-president of the library, under whose guidance the reception was an entire success, commanded the attention of guests present, and after gracefully alluding to the gift of Dr. Williams, its far-reaching benefits to this people, and the gratitude manifested on all sides to the donor, introduced the Hon. Frederick Billings, who spoke as follows: —

"MY FRIENDS: If I should seem to speak to you in a too personal and tender way for a public occasion like this, I pray you bear with me, for my heart is uppermost to-night, and I speak out of its fullness.

"On the spot where this Library stands was once one of the

loveliest homes of Woodstock. In its physical appearance without and within it was most attractive. Who will ever forget the broad piazza away from the dust of the street, shaded by maple trees, or those large rooms fronting on the piazza, with their high ceilings and walls covered with figured paper teaching lessons of history? What a wonder those walls were to me in my boyhood, and how glad I was to look on them in later years. And what a home that was in its domestic life, its social life, its hospitality, its cheerfulness, its culture and Christian refinement. How could it be otherwise where Mr. and Mrs. Norman Williams lived so many years? A man of liberal education, keeping up his classical knowledge all his life, happy to live here in his native town, turning away from larger fields and opportunities of high political honor, sympathizing with everything pertaining to the community's welfare, taking special interest in church and school and village, helpful to everybody, especially to youth, as I can testify from personal experience, modest and genial always, he was the model citizen. And while he was this to the public, he was with his great, affectionate nature, the model husband and father and the delightful friend. And she, — but I must not attempt to describe her here, nor could I if I were so disposed. From the time when I came, a lad of twelve years, to Woodstock, till a few years ago, when I last saw her sitting at the chamber window with snowy white hair and snowy white cap, with book in hand, just as much interested in art and literature and the world's progress in religion and everything that elevates, as in earlier years, she was always the same dear Mrs. Williams to me, graceful in person, lovely in spirit, serene, cheerful, with a face which shone with spiritual beauty. She was to me one of the very elect, and next to my own beloved mother, the dearest woman in Woodstock.

“To this dear home, for many years before I went to live on the other side of the continent, there was hardly a day that I did not go. It was a kind of second home, and I cherish a sweet memory of many, many pleasant hours there, of kindness received there, and I shall never forget the Saturday evenings, when Mr. Williams, so fond of devotional music, had the choir and the young people of the Congregational Church there to sing sacred hymns and prepare for the coming Sabbath.

“The children of that home were my beloved companions, and

though in later years we have been widely scattered, the friendship of childhood and youth has never been broken. Looking back on that home with its noble parents, its happy children, its affections, its sweet influences and refining spirit, sanctified by the death of two lovely daughters, by the death of the father, and by the funeral services of the mother, who, dying away, was brought here for burial, I do not wonder that the children longed to mark its site by a fitting and permanent memorial, and was inexpressibly gratified when Edward H. Williams communicated to me his purpose to build 'The Norman Williams Public Library.'

"In a personal, selfish, temporary view, I would have preferred that the old house should have been kept and occupied by the family, but old houses will, after a while, decay, and become by change and contrast suggestive of sadness. Behold the dilapidated and tumbling down birthplace of Hiram Powers on yonder hill. Besides, sometimes families pass altogether away, or, if continuing, there may be no one after two or three generations who will care for the old homestead. Think of the family of Charles Marsh with its hospitable and famous home on another hill with now not a single male descendant living bearing the name.

"So the library is far better. Indeed, nothing could be so appropriate. There will be a monument in the lovely plat across the river to mark the silent graves, but that will point to the past and awaken its memories. A memorial of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Williams should do more than that. It should be a living power to stir up activities in the present, to inspire wisdom and refinement and beneficence all the way down the years into the ages to come. If the immortals behold mortal things, we, who knew and loved those whom this loving work of a devoted son commemorates, are sure that they are spiritually here tonight with their love and blessing. If the old church had been destroyed or gone to decay, a new church might have been built. If this were a region of physical trouble and sickness, there might have been an asylum or a hospital. If the community were not alive to education and active in its interests, there might have been founded a grammar school. But it was the library that was needed, and nothing could be so useful. Think of it. Open doors, wide open doors, forever, without money and with-

out price, for all this region, to the most instructive literature of the past and the present. Who can forecast the abiding, uplifting, and far-reaching influence of the opportunities and benefits of such a gift? The building itself, built without regard to expense, of the finest architecture, lovely and exquisite and complete in all its appointments, will be, even to those who never avail themselves of its treasures, an education and an inspiration. And then to think provision is made to keep its shelves supplied with new coming attractions, and that increase of books, care and maintenance of building, and all the expenses of management are to be met by ample endowment, — how can I help exclaiming: What a noble, generous, graceful, beneficent work is this which you, Edward H. Williams, have done for your native town of Woodstock, and as a memorial of your beloved father and mother.

“For Woodstock and all this region, I bring you the heartiest acknowledgments of gratitude from all the people of every class and condition who are living here now. I speak too for all those who in later years will dwell in these valleys and on these hills and enjoy the Norman Williams Public Library. And I trust it will not be deemed irreverence when I say I speak too for those who have dwelt here in the more than a hundred years of Woodstock's history, but are no longer with us. And I beg to join with your name that of your brother Norman, whose annual coming with his family brings sunshine to our hearts and homes, and who, with characteristic enthusiasm, faithfulness, and taste, has done so much to aid you in your work.

“This Woodstock, a place of great natural beauty, has been the home of many distinguished families and remarkable for the high character of its population in every sphere of life. It was unsurpassed by any other centre in Vermont in culture, refinement, and influence. If we could hear voices from the heavens above us, how thankful would be the expressions of those who founded it, built it, and contributed to its worth; for this work is helpful in keeping up the attractiveness and usefulness of the place they loved so well.

“When the fathers and mothers pass away, the children can bring no greater tribute of love to their old homes than to do such work as this. They go to broader and more remunerative fields of labor, and these New England villages, many of them,

suffer greatly in the change. But there will be some compensation if now and then they will come back, perhaps making their summer homes in the old places, bringing their children with them, and, above all, if they will never forget the old church, the village school, and build a public library.

“The old traditional characteristics, associations, and influences must be kept alive and cherished. For there will come a time, — it may be some way off, if I do not live to see it I shall die in hope of it, — when there will be a reflux wave of emigration. The far West, with its tempting fields of enterprise and great activities, will not forever draw away youth from these regions, and some of those who have gone there will find their way back again. The abandoned farms will be sought after. Many a barren hillside will once more glow with the glorious autumn foliage, and many a quiet village will see itself back in its old life and power. So may it be.

“Thanks, everlasting thanks, dear Mr. Williams, for what you have done in the line of the fulfillment of this prophecy, and to secure to Woodstock the old prestige and power. It deserves a much more impressive recognition and acknowledgment than this simple reception to you and yours here to-night. But you, so like your father, and preëminently so in your modesty, have forbidden formal ceremonies, and reluctantly we have yielded to your wishes. If we are not allowed anything more, we rejoice to gather here in this informal way to look you in the face and take you by the hand, and to see so many of the family relatives. We wish they were all here to take delight in this superb library and see what a blessing it is to be.

“And now, as I close, I beg to tender to you, my life-long friend, sincere congratulations. First, that you were born a Williams, of such parentage, in this old town of Woodstock, right here on this spot where we stand. You bear a historic name. Your great-great-grandfather, Phinehas Williams, settled in this town two years before the Declaration of Independence, and you are of the fourth Williams generation here. Next, I congratulate you on the rich qualities of heart and head of which this library and ever so many other good works are the legitimate flower and fruit, and then on the deserved success in life which has enabled you to carry out the promptings of your generous nature. Long may life be spared to you to keep right on in the

same way of usefulness. May your paths drop fatness, and may the blessing from above, which enriches and adds no sorrow, ever be with you and every member of the Williams family to the farthest generation, and let all the people say, Amen and Amen."

At the conclusion of Mr. Billings' remarks, Mr. Chandler, referring to the long residence in Woodstock of the Rev. Moses Kidder, introduced him to the guests, and requested him to speak to the occasion. Mr. Kidder gracefully complied, and in a most fitting manner referred to the days gone by at Woodstock, and the attractive features of the place, and with great feeling and in an eloquent way enlarged upon the beauty of Mr. Williams' gift and its usefulness for all time to come.

Doctor Williams was very much touched by the heartfelt expressions of the speakers, and acknowledged their kind sentiments in a most modest manner.

The guests lingered in the beautiful building a long time after the speeches were made, and were loath to disperse. While a more pretentious public expression of gratitude would have been more pleasing to our citizens, the ovation of the evening was thorough and sincere and consistent with the quiet tastes of the benefactor, in whose honor it was given.

CHAPTER XXIX.

WAR RECORDS.

AT the time the Revolutionary War broke out the number of inhabitants in this town was small, but the feeling of the few then living in the township seems to have been unanimously for the independence of the colonies. Joab Hoisington, John Strong, Benjamin Emmons, and Phinehas Williams, who were the controlling spirits, were zealous partisans in the patriot cause, and were all at some time in the service. Hoisington especially was quite prominent in the military department, and during the first two years of the war served severally as captain in the Upper Regiment, colonel in the regiment of Minute Men, and major in the Rangers.¹ While serving in this last-named capacity, he was stationed at Newbury, and died there about February, 1777. Emmons served as lieutenant, and William Powers as ensign, in the company belonging to the Upper Regiment, of which Hoisington was for a while captain. John Strong was captain of one of the companies of Rangers. Phinehas Williams was captain of a company of militia, and may have succeeded Hoisington when the latter was made colonel of the regiment of Minute Men in January, 1776.

At this time patriotism was not confined to these few leading men, but was spread among all classes in the township. When the people assembled in town meeting, May 16, 1775, they voted to get "one Hundred pounds of Powder, two hundred pounds of Lead and four Hundred Flints," as a town stock of ammunition, and to assess the town for the whole of this ammunition, and that the treasurer might "sell out to the inhabitants of the said Town, one pound of Powder, two Pounds of Lead and some flints to each man in said Town, for the money and no more." Further, as by this movement the town had thrown off all allegiance to the king, at the same meeting Benjamin Emmons, John Strong, and Joab Hoisington were appointed a town com-

¹ For a copy of Major Hoisington's commission, see Hall's *Eastern Vermont*, page 265, note.

mittee of safety. Nor did events cause any abatement of the war-feeling during the succeeding year; if anything, this feeling grew more intense. There was a special town meeting July 13, 1776, and as indicative of the interest the people felt in the stirring events of the times, the record begins: "At a *full* meeting of the inhabitants of the aforesaid town," etc. At this meeting it was voted that "the Committee deal out to every man that has fire arms $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of Powder and one pound of Lead and to others as fast as the[y] get arms flints in Proportion."

When Burgoyne, in the summer of 1777, was advancing with his army along the west side of the mountain towards Saratoga, there was a widespread feeling of alarm through Cumberland County lest the inhabitants should suffer from ranging parties of the enemy, and along the whole line vigorous efforts were made for self-defence, in which efforts the town of Woodstock took active part. In fact, so absorbed were the people, at this crisis, in the perils which beset them from the war and the trials they were undergoing relative to the formation of a State government, that they do not seem to have given the slightest attention to civil affairs at home, and for the entire year 1777 there is no record of a single town meeting. Tradition relates that Nathan Howland, a veteran of the French and Indian War, succeeded in enlisting eighty men for service from this town and the towns adjoining, as did also Phineas Williams, and that the men so raised assisted to swell the forces which assembled from various quarters to check the advance of Burgoyne. Nor should the conduct of Joel Matthews, major in the Upper Regiment, be forgotten. Hearing, in the month of July, that some of Burgoyne's forces were at Rutland and intended to advance on Number Four, he ordered out the men under his command, and sending word to his colonel, Joseph Marsh, that he was ready for orders, added further that he should raise what men he could, and in any event, come what might, he should march against the enemy. After the Burgoyne campaign was over, comparative quiet reigned throughout the settlement till into the summer of 1780, when rumors of impending troubles from the Indians became plentiful and alarming,—rumors which were verified in August of that year by a visit to the adjoining town of Barnard from these troublesome foes, where they captured three men and carried

them to Canada. Five days after this event the "Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Woodstock," being assembled in town meeting, voted to raise three men for the term of three months for the defense of the frontiers, and to victual and pay them forty shillings per month in wheat, at five shillings per bushel; and moreover "to allow the men raised as afore^d. the same allowance of Rum that the State allows." Consequent upon the burning of Royalton by the Indians the following October, renewed and more violent alarms were extended in every direction; but no action was taken by the town for further defense till the 17th day of November then next, when it was voted in town meeting to "Raise the Provision according to a Resolve¹ of the General Assembly of this State in October Last." Three persons were chosen to receive this provision, and John Strong and Phinebas Williams were appointed "A Committee to purchase our part of the Beef," which amounted to 1,181 pounds. It was further voted to raise seventy-two bushels of wheat or other grain in proportion thereto, or as much money as would purchase said grain in order to purchase said beef. With the pioneer settlers of Woodstock this was very nearly the end of troubles growing out of the Revolutionary War.

When the war broke out in 1812, the people of this town, judging from their sentiments as expressed at the ballot-box, were five to one Jeffersonian Republicans. The war was therefore popular with them, and the military spirit likewise was then high. Previous to the war there had been, from time to time, frequent enlistments made in the town, and General Harrison drew from here three recruits for his Tippecanoe campaign, whose names were John Sanderson, Benjamin Richardson, and Zebina Raymond. The persons whose names are given in the following list are known to have been in the service from the town of Woodstock during the war of 1812; how many more (if any) went from the town may never be learned.

Anthony Besse,
Paul Brewster,
Josiah Clark,
William Call,
Noah Crooker, Jr.,
Levi Cox,

Jesse Churchill,
Sylvester Churchill,
Isaac Churchill,
Asa Churchill,
Calvin Dike,
George Fuller,

¹ For this "Resolve" see Slade's *State Papers*, page 407.

Reuben Fuller,
Ira Houghton,
Israel Houghton,
Washington Houghton,
Barnabas Keith,
Jonathan Kingsley, Jr.,
Daniel Marsh,
Elijah Packard,
John A. Pratt,
Oliver Powers,
Archelaus Putnam,
Elias Randall,
Lysander Raymond,
Barney Raymond,
Jared Rickard,

Arah B. Rice,
Ambrose Rogers,
Joel Sanderson,
Abel Sanderson,
Samuel Sanderson,
John Sterlin,
Samuel Sterlin,
Lemuel Spooner,
Isaac Spooner,
Oliver Thomas,
Joseph Wood,
Abiel Whitney,
Benjamin Wilder,
Phinehas Williams, Jr.

To the persons named in the above list may be added the three who were out in the Tippecanoe campaign.

During the summer of 1814 the town was much enlivened by the presence of a large number of the military. Colonel Dana had here the headquarters of a recruiting district. Captain Irvine was here also with a company of riflemen, and had for his subalterns George B. Sheldon, styled among his acquaintance "a harum-scarum chap," and Mowrey, a Virginian of very amiable parts. To this corps was attached as physician a young man by the name of Henning, genteel and accomplished in manners. Other prominent persons belonging to the military were Doctor Mason of the infantry, Major R. B. Brown, a kind-hearted man, and Captain Aiken, who mixed a little too much acid in his composition. Outside of the military department the presence in the village of such men as Samuel Ward, John C. Bancroft, Jason Steele, and Justus Burdick, who took up their residence here about this time, served to render society in the neighborhood only the more lively and attractive.

The war with Mexico was not approved by the citizens of Vermont as a whole, nor did many from Woodstock take part in that contest. But when the ninth regiment was formed, of which Colonel T. B. Ransom took command, no trouble was found in raising for this regiment one company in Vermont. Of this company, E. A. Kimball, then editor of the "Spirit of the Age," was appointed captain, and in the same company Dean

Fairbanks, also of Woodstock, enlisted, receiving the post of sergeant-major. The regiment was attached to Pierce's Brigade in Pillow's Division of the grand army, under General Scott, and reached Vera Cruz about the 1st of July, 1847. Captain Kimball proved a good officer, and distinguished himself on several occasions by a display of valor which drew a favorable notice from the commander of the regiment. Both Kimball and Fairbanks took an active part in the storming of the fortress at Chapultepec, which took place the 13th of September, 1847. On the west side of Chapultepec, some little distance from the fortress, was a forest of cypress-trees, known by the name of Montezuma's grove. This grove had been cleared of the enemy's skirmishers and occupied by the storming party under charge of Colonel Ransom. Between the farther edge of the grove and the foot of the ascent, on which the castle stood, was an open space four or five rods wide. Colonel Ransom was the first to dash across this open space, and Sergeant-major Fairbanks the second. It was while gallantly leading the charge up the ascent that the colonel was struck by a bullet from the outworks and killed. But the soldiers pushed forward, and soon reaching the summit of Chapultepec, occupied the exterior works around the fortress. Here some delay arose for want of the scaling-ladders. While they were fetching these, Fairbanks seized two bayonets, and sticking them in the fissures of the walls, used them for steps and so climbed up. Both he and Captain Kimball were the first, or among the first, to reach the platform, and they always claimed that they were the ones who pulled down the colors of the castle. Major Seymour, in closing his report of the affair at Chapultepec, speaks of Captain Kimball's behavior during the engagement in terms of great praise, and in naming at the same time other officers for their meritorious conduct adds this special word: "Sergeant-major Fairbanks rendered valuable assistance in the action, and gave ample proof of his bravery, as he has done on former occasions."

During the troubles which arose throughout the country in the winter of 1860-61, an order, known as "Order No. 10," was issued from the inspector-general's office at Rutland, January 25, 1861, to the commanding officers of each company of uniformed militia in this State. Pursuant to the above order the members of the Woodstock Light Infantry were directed to meet, and did

meet, at their armory Saturday evening, the 9th of the following February, when the presiding officer, Captain P. T. Washburn, stated to the company the object of the meeting, and the question required by said order to be propounded, namely, whether the members would comply with the order of the commander-in-chief, made upon any requisition of the President of the United States, to aid in the maintenance of the laws and the peace of the Union, was put to each member separately, with the result that out of fifty-three members, whose names were called, six gave no response, seven responded in the negative, and forty in the affirmative. Among the company-music and among those members who had never done active duty four more were found to respond in the affirmative.

On the fourteenth day of April, 1861, Fort Sumter surrendered, and on the 15th President Lincoln issued his call for seventy-five thousand volunteers for three months only. To make up the quota of 780 men required from Vermont by this call, ten companies were selected, which were to form the First Regiment of Vermont Volunteers. One of these ten companies was the Woodstock Light Infantry. This company was organized the tenth day of August, 1857, and since that date had been under the command of Captain Peter T. Washburn, a thorough tactician and strict in enforcing discipline, who by his faithful and efficient labors had made the Infantry "the best military company in the State."¹ When the regiment was officered, Captain Washburn was appointed lieutenant-colonel, and William W. Pelton was elected captain of the Woodstock company in his stead.*

May 2, 1861, the company left their armory at half past four o'clock in the morning, marching out of the village and taking teams near Woodward's factory, and proceeded thence by way of Ludlow to Rutland, the place of rendezvous, where they arrived at half past four o'clock in the afternoon. At the time of leaving Woodstock the company numbered seventy-six men, of whom thirty-nine were residents of the town. To this number considerable additions were made at Rutland before the troops left for the seat of war.²

The Vermont regiment being ordered to Fortress Monroe, Va.,

¹ G. G. Benedict.

went with the company to the seat of war

² Charles B. Wentworth, Austin Hazard, and Isaac Williams, colored men,

in the capacity of waiters to the officers. They all belonged to Woodstock.

landed at the fort the thirteenth day of May, where they remained till the 27th, then advanced to Newport News and occupied "Camp Butler." The event of chief importance to occur during the stay of the regiment in Virginia was the battle of Big Bethel, fought June 10, 1861, in which the Woodstock Light Infantry took part. This was their first experience under fire, although for some of them not the last, and by Colonel Washburn, who led the principal charge in this battle, they were commended as behaving like veterans. One of their number, private Reuben M. Parker, was taken prisoner and conducted to Richmond, where ten days later he was exchanged and rejoined his companions. Reuben always claimed that he was the first prisoner formally exchanged in the war. At the close of the three months the Light Infantry returned to Vermont, many of them, however, not to stay, but to re-enter the service, there to encounter more severe experience than any they underwent in this their first campaign in the war.

When President Lincoln issued his order dated August 4, 1862, for a draft of three hundred thousand militia for nine months, again the Woodstock Light Infantry was called into service, and formed Company "B" in the "12th Reg. Vt. Vol. Mil." By this time it was changed considerably from the original roll, and the captain was Ora Paul, Jr., of Pomfret, who proved a meritorious officer and was afterwards promoted to the rank of Major in the army. To follow out this subject further here is not, however, advisable. The reports of Adjutant General Washburn, and G. G. Benedict's interesting work entitled "Vermont in the Civil War," are full and instructive upon the matter in hand, and supersede the necessity of more ample details in these sketches. Sufficient to say, the town of Woodstock bore its full share in the expenditure of blood and treasure which the war of the rebellion cost to maintain the integrity of the Union.

CHAPTER XXX.

MASONS, AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, AND WOODSTOCK AQUEDUCT COMPANY.

MASONS.

IN June, 1804, Warren Lodge, No. 23, was installed by John Chipman, Grand Master, assisted by other officers of the said lodge. A sermon was preached on the occasion by the Rev. John Sabin. Alexander Hutchinson was installed Master; Benjamin Emmons, Jr., Senior Warden; William Perry, Junior Warden; Benjamin Swan, Treasurer; William Strong, Secretary. The last election for officers of this lodge was held December, 1826, at which time Norman Williams was chosen Master. The following minutes were furnished by Mr. Williams:—

“During that year [1826] complaints of the immoral conduct of certain members of the lodge had been made, and one member had been expelled. It was found that the investigations of the lodge in relation to the discipline of members were known outside of the lodge. The brethren were alarmed at this unprecedented and unwarrantable condition of things, and lost all confidence in a few of their members who were implicated in this course of conduct. It was found impracticable to discipline an unruly member; factions were formed, brethren could not meet on the level nor part on the square; masonic obligations seemed to be disregarded by a few who had access to the lodge; and in this condition of things a resolution was taken by the faithful members of the lodge, who valued the institution for its real worth, that inasmuch as the lodge had become corrupt by the want of care in receiving members, it would be more honorable to the institution of masonry to close the lodge, than under the semblance of unity to live in discord and have fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. Accordingly a vote was passed to surrender the charter of the lodge, and this was done in October, 1827. The lodge was not given up in consequence of antimasonry or any outside pressure, but for reasons arising and existing within its walls.”

Washington Mark Master's Lodge, No. 8, was founded August 28, 1813, agreeably to a dispensation from Charles K. Williams, Grand High Priest, to Gaius Perkins and others. The lodge was installed in due form September 12, 1814, and public exercises were held at the Congregational Church, when a sermon was delivered by Rev. Aaron Leland, and an oration pronounced by Rev. Jonathan Goings. "For several years during the existence of the Master Lodge in Woodstock, its labors were interrupted by reason of the removal of Windsor — A. C. to Woodstock. This removal did not take place at the instance or by the procurement of Masons in Woodstock. The chapter was established at Windsor and remained there for several years, until its financial management and expenses so involved it in debt that the companions in the vicinity were determined to remove it from Windsor and place it under a new administration; and without the influence of Masons, either in Woodstock or Windsor, it was removed to Woodstock, where its tabernacle was set up and where it remained several years, until the chapter, liquidated of its debts, cleared itself of embarrassments, and then it was removed from Woodstock with full consent of the Woodstock companions."¹

Washington Mark Lodge continued to flourish till the year 1829, when for some cause it appears to have been given up. After the lapse of some fifteen or twenty years a lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was established in this village, October 12, 1848, which held meetings in the hall of the store building erected by Lyman Mower, on the west side of the common. It continued in existence about ten years, and was then dissolved.

Woodstock Lodge No. 31, F. and A. M., was chartered January 12, 1854. After the Odd Fellows disbanded, the hall they had vacated was occupied by the Masonic Lodge, where meetings were held for a short time, and then the Lodge found quarters at the Eagle Hotel, till a hall was prepared in 1860 in the third story, northeast end, of Phoenix Block. Here the Lodge remained till 1867, when it took possession of Masonic Hall, third story of the new bank building on Elm Street.

"The Ottanquechee Chapter, No. 21, R. A. M., was chartered October 2, 1857. Past High Priests, Joseph S. Richmond, Edwin Hazen, Owen T. Marsh."

¹ N. Williams.

While speaking of the Masons, it seems desirable to make some mention of the anti-Masonic movement, which sixty years ago spread so widely and rapidly through the land, and during the period of its existence exercised such controlling influence upon the affairs of Woodstock. To treat intelligibly the origin of this most remarkable phenomenon in the social and political history of the country, it is necessary to go over a few familiar facts concerning the abduction of William Morgan.

In the spring and summer of the year 1826, William Morgan, a citizen of the State of New York, by occupation a bricklayer and stone-mason, was residing at Batavia, Genesee County. In the summer of that year it became known that he was preparing a work in which the obligations, secret signs, and ceremonies of Freemasonry were to be published. This caused great commotion among the members of the fraternity in that vicinity, and at first persuasion and advice were resorted to, that the publication of the work might be stopped. These proving ineffectual, other methods of more stringent nature were adopted. On the morning of the 11th of September, 1826, Morgan was arrested on some civil process and conveyed to Canandaigua, a distance of forty-eight miles, where he was examined before the justice who issued the warrant for his arrest and discharged. Application was then made for a warrant against Morgan for a debt of two dollars, judgment was entered against him, and execution immediately issued, by virtue of which he was committed to jail at Canandaigua the evening of the same 11th of September. He remained in the Canandaigua jail until the evening of the following day, when he was taken out under circumstances of peculiar character, placed in a carriage, and conveyed to Lewiston on the Niagara River. From Lewiston he was taken to the ferry at Youngstown, where the persons having him in charge crossed with Morgan by the usual ferry boat into Canada. The arrangements in Canada for the reception of Morgan not being completed, they returned. Morgan was brought back to this side and put in the magazine which was in Fort Niagara, where he remained several days, until one morning (believed to be the 19th of the same September) he was missing; he was gone.¹

Out of this event originated the anti-Masonic movement,

¹ Report, etc., of John C. Spencer to his Excellency, E. T. Throop, acting Governor of the State of New York. Albany, January 27, 1830.

which, beginning in the region of Batavia, soon spread with great violence throughout the Northern States of this Union. It was not long in reaching Vermont; it penetrated every village and hamlet within its borders, and the heat and excitement over the matter rose high in Woodstock, mingling in business affairs, coloring all the relations of life, and affecting every question of a public character.

According to Chauncey Richardson, the beginning of anti-Masonry in this town as a social and political movement may be stated as follows: It is granted that there were seceding Masons in various parts of the State. Among the number was Elder E. B. Rollins, who had been a Royal Arch Mason. He started a paper in Randolph called "The Vermont Luminary," in which he gave a history of Masonry in its various degrees, as he had passed through them. Charles Mackenzie, likewise a seceder, invited this Elder Rollins to come to South Woodstock and preach in the old meeting-house. The Elder accepted and held forth in the church. People had gathered in great numbers to hear him, expecting an exposé of Masonry, but the preacher gave first a good Sunday discourse, and then closed that part of his work. Next he entered upon the subject which was occupying the minds of his hearers, and made some disclosures and statements concerning Masonry. When he was through, Gaius Perkins, an Arch-Mason, who was present, rose and said the remarks of the speaker were not true. Elder Rollins replied, "If you, sir, are an Arch-Mason, you know what I have said is true."

So far as is known, the first public meeting in the town to investigate the subject of "Speculative Free Masonry" was a county convention, held, pursuant to previous notice, at South Woodstock the 19th of March, 1829, Hon. Elihu Luce, of Hartland, in the chair. The proceedings of this meeting were given in full in the "Woodstock Observer" for April 7 then next, the editor, a Mason, making the preliminary remark that he did so at the urgent request of many of his subscribers, at the same time himself believing that the proceedings should be published as matters of future reference. Some of the things done at this convention suggest that it is identical with the meeting referred to in the foregoing statement collected from Mr. Richardson, and in any event it may be regarded as the beginning of anti-Masonry as a political movement in the town and county. Nor should it

be forgotten, in any effort to understand this subject, that from the beginning the declared object of the anti-Masons was the complete destruction of Masonry. To accomplish this end, the prime actors in the movement claimed that no reliance could be placed on the moral sentiment. Moral anti-Masonry, they affirmed, could not reach the heart of the matter; opposition to Masonry must be made political, and those who professed this opposition must follow up their convictions by a public avowal of them at the ballot-box. Political anti-Masonry, as a fact, began at the annual March meeting for the election of town officers, held at Batavia, New York, in 1828.

The efforts of the anti-Masons to secure the political control of this town met with vigorous opposition, and the contest grew warm and excited. As partly explaining its bitterness and violence, it should be remembered that the leaders of the anti-Masonic movement were largely made up of seceding Masons; in fact, it is reasonably certain that anti-Masonry would have soon died out but for the support it received from the seceders. For five years the strife continued with unabated energy and with ever-increasing heat. The animosities engendered by this strife reached every family; they penetrated even the sanctuary, and were attended with an exhibition of personalities and recriminations such as the lover of sobriety and good order in society may hope never to see repeated. At length, in the fall of 1834, the subject of the voluntary relinquishment of Masonry by its members began to excite considerable discussion in the public prints. The example was set by the Masons of Washington County, who convened at Montpelier, September 19, 1834, and unanimously adopted resolutions to the effect that for the sake of restoring public tranquillity, and believing that in the changes and improvements of society the institution had become unnecessary, it was expedient and proper that the Masonic institution be dissolved, and for that "purpose we hereby cheerfully relinquish it forever." Their example was followed by the Masons of Windsor County, who met in convention at the court-house in this village on the 30th of the same month of September and adopted resolutions similar in character to those adopted by the convention of Masons in Washington County. These steps on the part of the Masons becoming general, an end was put to the strife. As the "Franklin Journal" (anti-Masonic) observed: "The

only object of political anti-Masonry is the destruction of Masonry. When Masonry dies, anti-Masonry dies with it."

Connected with these social and political movements of the times there occurred in Woodstock one singular episode deserving of some notice. At the May term of the County Court, held at Woodstock in 1826, Joseph Burnham was convicted of misdemeanor and sentenced to the state's prison for ten years and to pay a fine of one thousand dollars. The following October, while in prison at Windsor, he was taken sick and died on the 15th day of the month, and on the 17th the body was delivered to his relatives, by whom it was conveyed to Woodstock and buried in the Cushing Cemetery, where his headstone may be seen to this day. Rumor soon spread abroad that Burnham was alive and had been seen and conversed with in New York by those who had known him in Woodstock. These rumors became at length so strong and of such decided character that the matter was taken up in the "Vermont Republican and Journal," printed at Windsor, and the editor, Mr. Ide, in his issue for September 19, 1829, denied that there was any truth in these rumors, and made a statement of facts relating to the manner of the death, burial, etc., of Joseph Burnham. A reply to this article, over the signature of "Equal Rights and Exact Justice," written by R. Makepeace Ransom, appeared in the "Woodstock Observer" for September 30 and another for October 13, with the affidavits of Aaron B. Cutter and one Lyman Mower, that they had seen and conversed with Burnham in New York since the date of his pretended death. The person calling himself Lyman Mower, it should be observed, had known Burnham when he worked for General Lyman Mower in Woodstock, and the two had worked together for the General about three months in 1823. This person's real name was Joshua Cobb; he absconded from Woodstock in 1823, went to New York, and there assumed the name of Lyman Mower.

The testimony of these two persons produced a wide impression among the community that Burnham, being a Mason, had been secreted by his friends, and at the time of his pretended death the body of another person had been substituted for his, and this had been taken to Woodstock and there interred as Burnham's. So great became the excitement in this place over the affair, that the selectmen ordered the body to be twice disin-

tered during the week ending the 27th of October, 1829. At the last disinterment very many of the citizens of our village were present, some of whom had been intimately acquainted with Burnham from his youth up. The result was not decisive beyond the gratification of an idle curiosity, as the body was in the last stages of corruption. At length the matter was brought before the Legislature at their session in 1829, by whom commissioners were appointed to investigate the circumstances of the death or escape of Joseph Burnham; and also the affidavit of Lyman Mower, alias Joshua Cobb. The commissioners made their report the 28th day of October, 1829, from which it appeared that the investigation was first made at the state prison, and although the evidence of Burnham's death was positive, yet on account of the affidavit of Lyman Mower, alias Joshua Cobb, it was judged expedient by the commissioners that one of their number, Robert Pierpoint, should proceed to the city of New York. Arriving at New York, the commissioner called on Lyman Mower, it being the 23d day of instant October, who insisted that Burnham was still alive in the city, and passed under the name of Patrick Dolon. He went with the commissioner in search of this Dolon, and when Dolon was found, Mower then acknowledged that he had been deceived; that the man was not Joseph Burnham. The commissioner obtained an affidavit from Mower covering the whole story from his first seeing Dolon in 1826, at the debtors' prison in New York, when he thought him to be Joseph Burnham, to this last and conclusive examination of the matter, on which occasion he acknowledged his mistake, and confessed that he had been deceived from the beginning by a strong resemblance between the two men.

About the time the anti-Masonic movement began in this vicinity, a "*corps d'élite*," as it was termed, consisting of seceding Masons, was organized in a neighboring town under the special charge of Rev. Samuel C. Loveland, which traveled about the country, giving exhibitions of Freemasonry. By the adverse party this company was nicknamed "Elder Loveland's caravan." It exhibited at South Woodstock on the 22d of March, 1830, and the following day at the court-house on the green. The meeting at the court-house was fully attended, and the performance embraced an "exhibition of Masonry in the three first degrees," and to show with what feelings the anti-Masons witnessed the

exhibition, one of their number remarked that on this occasion "about three hundred were *by proxy* initiated, passed, and raised to the *sublime* degree of master Masons." Some disturbance took place towards the close, displaying itself in the shape of snowballs flying over the stage, groanings, and squeakings among some of the spectators, and bangs on the outside door; but nothing serious occurred to mar the festivities of the hour.

These exhibitions, kept up for some time here and in the towns round about, were calculated to render Masons and Masonic institutions ridiculous in the eyes of the community, and were sure to provoke reprisals, should opportunity offer. To some of the wits of the village the affair of Joseph Burnham suggested itself as a good subject to work up against the anti-Masons, and they took steps accordingly to improve the chance. December 6, 1831, proposals were issued for publishing by subscription a new work, to be entitled "The Doleful Tragedy of the Raising of Jo. Burnham," or "The Cat let out of the Bag." The work was to be in dramatic form, in three acts. The first act was to contain the substance of several *secret* meetings and some public meetings held in various parts of Windsor County for the purpose of raising the wind. Most of the speeches at these meetings had been faithfully reported, and in the proposed work would only receive such embellishments as were authorized by poetic license. Act 2d was to exhibit the august ceremony of the raising of Jo. Burnham by the grip of a "Real Anti," in which the honorable Roderic Makefuss was to officiate as Grand High Priest. Act 3d was to contain some of the debates touching the distribution of the "loaves and fishes" amongst the principal actors. The work in reality, when it did come out, embraced five acts, and was illustrated with a variety of grotesque woodcuts. Early in the spring of 1832¹ appeared "The Doleful Tragedy of Jo. Burnham, etc. By Timothy Tickle, Esq." Among citizens at large the work, as might be expected, produced an amount of stir, amusement, and vexation, altogether above its merits, and the authorship of it was generally credited to Benjamin F. Kendall, editor of the "Courier." During the first week in July, 1832, Messrs. Thorne & Mestayer's company visited Woodstock,

¹ "'Jo. Burnham.' We are frequently asked whether this work is to be published. In answer we are enabled to say that 'Jo.'s' ghost will appear to the Antis in the shape of a Drama in the course of all this month." — *The Observer*, Feb. 14, 1832.

and gave a series of theatrical performances at Charles E. Phillips' Hall, which continued about ten days. Near the close of the performances "The Doleful Tragedy of Jo. Burnham" was arranged for the stage by a member of the corps, and represented with "unbounded applause," and was repeated "Friday evening, the 13th instant." People still living will recollect how high the excitement rose upon this occasion, and what apprehensions some good citizens really felt lest there should be "broken heads, black eyes, and bloody noses." But the storm soon passed by, and no harm resulted.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The first annual meeting of the Agricultural Society for the County of Windsor was held at the court-house in this village, Tuesday, May 2, 1820. At this meeting the following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year, viz.: William Jarvis, Esq., President; Gen. Zebina Curtis, Jabez Proctor, Esq., Titus Hutchinson, Esq., Vice-Presidents; Norman Williams, Secretary.

After considerable delay in organizing and getting under headway, the society held its first annual exhibition in this village Thursday, the 20th of September, 1821. The proceedings were as follows:—At half-past eleven o'clock in the forenoon a procession of the officers and members of the society was formed at the court-house under the direction of General Fletcher, chief marshal, and Colonel Burdick and Major Wales, assistant marshals. The procession moved to the meeting-house, where prayers were offered by Rev. Mr. Chapin and an address was delivered by Jacob Collamer, Esq. The procession then returned to the court-house, after which a business meeting of the society was held, officers were chosen for the ensuing year, and the meeting adjourned to four o'clock in the afternoon. At four o'clock, the society having again met, the several committees appointed to adjudge premiums made report, and the premiums were awarded. For some cause considerable prejudice seems to have existed against this society, for which reason, or for others, it could not be sustained, and after the year 1823 it died out. In 1846 the society was reorganized, or a new one was formed, on a more permanent basis, which has continued in active operation to the present day. With the exception of four years, all the annual

exhibitions in the mean time have been held in Woodstock, the first one being held on the common, with the pens arranged around the park fence. The show of fancy and other articles was held in the court-house. In 1855, the present Fair Ground was purchased for the society exhibitions. It has been much improved since it was first established, and still further improvements are contemplated, and it may be safely considered as not excelled by any similar grounds in the State.

THE WOODSTOCK AQUEDUCT COMPANY.

At a village meeting held in the year 1879, a committee consisting of O. P. Chandler, Justin F. Mackenzie, and Charles Chapman was appointed for the purpose of examining into the most feasible method of supplying the village with water. The committee, after careful investigation of several brooks in the neighborhood, made a full report in regard to the matter, with estimates of the expense, etc. Here the business ended for the present, as it was deemed inexpedient for the village to assume such an undertaking at that time.

The following year an act was passed by the Legislature incorporating "The Woodstock Aqueduct Company." By the 11th section of this act the village was authorized to contract with said corporation for supplying said village with water for fire purposes, for watering the streets, and for other uses, and applying the same for a term not exceeding ten years. Under this act, in the summer of 1886 "The Woodstock Aqueduct Company" was organized with a capital of thirty-six thousand dollars, and a contract was made with the company to supply the village with water pursuant to the provisions of the 11th section. Subscriptions for the greater part of the stock having been obtained, a contract was entered into with R. D. Wood & Co.,¹ of Philadelphia, for the construction of the work, which was completed in December, 1887, at an expense of about thirty-five thousand dollars.

The water is furnished from a reservoir located about two and a half miles westerly of the village, on the "Thomas brook," at an elevation of 260 feet above the Town Hall. The Thomas brook is strengthened by a supply from the "Williams brook," or "Saw-Mill brook," of the olden time, by a four-inch connecting

¹ Sub-contractors, T. William Harris & Co., New York, who did all the work.

pipe. The reservoir at present has a capacity of about two and a half million gallons, but may be enlarged, if necessary, to three millions. The dam is constructed after the most approved methods, having a packed earth embankment about ninety feet wide at the bottom and eight on the top, with a stone and cement core.

The mains include 13,310 feet of eight-inch pipe, extending from the reservoir to the centre of the village, 2,012 feet of six-inch pipe, and 14,350 feet of four-inch pipe, making with the four-inch supply from the Williams brook about seven miles of pipe, all of heavy weight cast-iron, and running through all the streets of the village. The mains are laid six feet underground, and gates are so placed that any street may be cut off without disturbing others. There are now thirty hydrants placed in the village, and two at West Woodstock.

The successful accomplishment of the enterprise was due in a large measure to the energy of the executive committee, who from the beginning to the end of this important undertaking gave to the work their unremitting attention. The committee was composed of Frank S. Mackenzie, Luther O. Greene, and Frederick W. Wilder.

CHAPTER XXXI.

TURNPIKE ROADS, STAGES, AND WOODSTOCK RAILROAD COMPANY.

TURNPIKE ROADS.

THE expense of making and repairing highways through many parts of Vermont which are rocky and mountainous, was felt in early times to be much greater than ought to be required of the towns through which such highways might pass. To meet therefore the public demand in such cases for safe and convenient roads, resort was had to individual enterprise, and this led to the establishment of turnpike companies. The first turnpike road in this State seems to have been the one from Bennington to Wilmington, constructed under an act of the legislature passed November 3, 1796, establishing the "First Vermont Turnpike Corporation." After this date the rapidity with which the mania for turnpikes spread is remarkable, some fifty or more being laid in a few years through different parts of the State. Two of these institutions, having their termini in Woodstock, may be briefly mentioned here.

The Windsor and Woodstock Turnpike Company was incorporated November 5, 1799. Among its members were Jesse Williams, Charles Marsh, Benjamin Swan, and William Rice, all of Woodstock; Stephen Jacob, William Leverett, Abner Forbes and others, of Windsor. This turnpike road was a good investment and proved a useful concern for several years; but as the people who had occasion to travel over the road soon resorted to various methods of getting to and fro, without passing along a line where they had to pay toll, the turnpike at last fell into a bad condition and was voted by the public a trial and nuisance; yet, under the circumstances, how best to get rid of it was for some time a serious question. At length the people of Woodstock, in town-meeting assembled, on the sixth day of September, 1842, resolved, *nem con.*, "That the selectmen be a committee to

purchase the turnpike road with Hartland, provided they can do it at an expense not to exceed fifty dollars to the town of Woodstock." This resolution came to nothing.

During those days Samuel Whitney was keeping hotel at the stand formerly occupied by R. Barker, and was running the stage, paying yearly about thirty dollars toll to this turnpike. He was therefore considerably interested in the matter, and was ready to aid in any project that made a fair show for getting rid of the road. Just then it so happened that Mr. Flint, teamster, who drove between Woodstock and Boston, met with an accident on the turnpike and sued the company for damages. Recovering judgment, he attached the franchise of the road, which was then put up at vendue. Mr. Whitney, who was carefully watching the course of events, thought here might be a chance for him to take part. Attending the vendue, he found no one present wishing to bid except Dr. L. F. Gallup and Mr. Flint. Gallup he persuaded to keep quiet, and arranged with Flint that he should "come off whole." As a result, the road was struck off to Mr. Whitney for three dollars. Some legal proceedings had to be instituted after this, but everything moved along smoothly, till at last, the way being now clear, Mr. Whitney advanced upon the toll-gate and bore it away in triumph.

ROYALTON AND WOODSTOCK TURNPIKE.

At the session of the legislature held in October, 1800, application was made by Charles Marsh and others for a grant of a turnpike road to extend from Royalton meeting-house to the court-house in Woodstock. The charter for this road was granted the seventh day of November, 1800. At the time of the application there was great excitement among the people in Woodstock and Pomfret in relation to the grant; but this was quieted by the understanding and agreement between the corporation and the representatives of Woodstock and Pomfret, Benjamin Emmons and William Perry, that there should not be a gate erected on the turnpike at any point south of the road which came in from Pomfret meeting-house.¹

Accordingly, when the road was put in operation, a gate was

¹ Deposition of John Makenzie, February 22, 1839. and Perry on their return from the Assembly in that year." Deposition of

"I was told the same by said Emmons Alexander Hutchinson.

erected near Mr. Winslow's house in Pomfret, about three miles and a half from the court-house, and there it remained six or eight years. By this time William Perry was dead, and Benjamin Emmons had gone West. The gate was then removed below the Barnard road, which intersected the turnpike just above Deacon John Makenzie's, and was set up near the Howland place (now Mr. Buck's), where it remained about twenty-five years. For the first twenty years of its existence the turnpike road was kept in good repair, and showed as well in its equipments as the majority of turnpikes and county roads, but after that period it fell by degrees into a bad state, in consequence of which much complaint arose from the traveling public. In September, 1828, it was so heavily damaged by the rains and floods that the proprietors became discouraged, and a proposition was made by General Curtis to the town of Woodstock to purchase the road for a moderate price. This was not accepted, and the following year over two thousand dollars were expended in work on the road, and it was put in good repair from Woodstock to Aiken's in Barnard, and from Aiken's to Royalton in decent repair. After that time no general thorough repairs were made on the road.¹ In December, 1836, because of the very bad state of the road, the gate was thrown open, and so remained for a year or more. February, 1838, it was again set up at a point a little below Colonel Dana's house, some seventy rods from its former old stand near the Howland place, and there stayed the rest of the time the turnpike was run.

For many years the proprietors were quite considerate in demanding toll of the people passing over the turnpike who lived along and near its southerly portion. In fact, the directions to the gate-tender were, not to take toll of any person who lived in Pomfret or North Bridgewater that passed the gate, nor of any person living in Woodstock who was going to any part of Pomfret, or who went the Gulf road to Barnard, unless they went north of Barnard meeting-house; and all persons going to or from Sharon paid half toll, and all persons living in Woodstock, north of the gate, passed the same toll-free.² But when, in 1838, David Bosworth appeared upon the scene, all this was changed. The gate was shut, and toll demanded of all who

¹ Deposition of Simon Warren, Turnpike Inspector.

² Depositions of Lucia E. Cobb and Robert French, gate-tenders.

passed, unless they were going to mill or to meeting, or on military duty; and when Mr. Bosworth was asked if he intended to demand toll of people living near the gate when they were on their ordinary family business, he replied that he did not understand the meaning of the term "family concerns" (in the charter), and he should demand toll of all those drawing wood, or going to get their horses shod, or going to Woodstock to trade. Furthermore, because people had not paid toll formerly, this was no reason why they should not now pay, and "we have come to the conclusion that every person, no matter where they reside, shall pay us from one to ten dollars, and perhaps more, yearly, or pay the regular fees."¹

Over these proceedings on the part of the proprietors, great commotion arose in this community, and at once there was a severe contest for the possession of the toll-gate. On one side was a powerful party, consisting of the town of Woodstock and the people living adjacent thereto; on the other side was a powerful party, consisting of David Bosworth. September 17, 1838, the town instructed the selectmen to remove the gate and toll-house from the road near Daniel Dana's, and to employ a sufficient force for that purpose at the expense of the town. In obedience to this order the selectmen removed said gate the next day, but it was set up again. Placards were then posted about the streets of the village and along the highways, advertising a concert to be held forthwith at the toll-gate, and warning all loyal citizens to be present and assist with their arms and voices; whereupon a collision seemed imminent. More prudent counsels, however, prevailed, the toll-gate was left to swing for the present on its hinges, and Mr. Bosworth collected his toll without further disturbance.

From early times in the history of this State the General Assembly has been in the habit of providing remedies for local evils, and for the cure of diseases in the body politic otherwise not easy to reach. At the session of the legislature held in October, 1839, a bill was introduced, considered, and passed, granting power to the supreme court and county courts to take any real estate, easement or franchise, of any turnpike or other corporation, "when in their judgment the public good requires a public highway," etc. Under the provisions of this act a com-

¹ Affidavit of Judge Denison.

mittee was appointed, on application for that purpose, to lay a new free road from the meeting-house in Royalton to the court-house in Woodstock, which road was laid by said committee, and was laid in all places directly upon the Royalton & Woodstock Turnpike, as the same was chartered in 1800. The committee made report to the county court for the May term, 1841, exceptions to the same were filed by the Turnpike Company, and the premises being considered, the court made order that the exceptions be overruled and the report of the committee be accepted; and it was further ordered that a road be established agreeably to the report, and be opened by the first day of May, 1842.

STAGES.

In connection with turnpikes brief mention should be made of the many lines of stages that formerly radiated from Woodstock as a centre to various parts of the adjacent country. Fifty-five years ago the system of travel by these conveyances had attained great perfection in this place, as many persons still living can recollect. The teams on all the lines were kept in fine discipline, and the horses in use were oftentimes remarkable for beauty and speed. But the most conspicuous and noteworthy part of the establishment was the well-fed, well-dressed driver, who both on and off the box was the best-satisfied man to be found anywhere. It is pleasant to recall for a moment the names and faces of a few among the many noble specimens of the profession who years ago were associated as stage-drivers in Woodstock and vicinity, such as Humphrey Paul, George Paul, Charles Proctor, Moses Church, John Willis, David Paul, Samuel Vose, kindest of men, Hiram Kibbey, Edwin Shattuck, William Lull, and others who might be named, all of whom have long passed away, as indeed the entire fraternity has disappeared for the most part from the face of the country.

The proprietors of the early stage lines were chiefly Robert Barker, Hiram Cutting, Frederick Pettes, John P. Skinner, Samuel Whitney, John Strong, and others whose names are omitted.

¹ There can be no objection to stating here that Mr. William Billings, an associate of the stage-drivers named above, is still living and resides in this village. In the month of March, 1829, he began carrying the United States mail from Wood-

THE WOODSTOCK RAILROAD COMPANY.

With the introduction of railroads into this country, turnpikes and stage-coaches had no longer any place, and the stage-coach soon began to disappear as a public conveyance along the highways of the land. On the 30th of October, 1863, an act was passed by the General Assembly incorporating the Woodstock Railroad Company, to run from some point in the village of Woodstock to some point on or near White River or Connecticut River, either in the town of Hartland or Hartford, as the company should elect. Several years elapsed before any organization was effected under this act, but at length a company was formed, the 9th day of January, 1867, by the choice of nine directors and the adoption of the necessary by-laws. The following are the names of the directors chosen at this first meeting: Peter T. Washburn (President), Thomas E. Powers, Albert G. Dewey, Charles Dana, Francis W. Clarke, Lewis Pratt, Franklin N. Billings, Charles S. Raymond, Otis Chamberlin.

To organize a company and elect officers, though an important step in the prosecution of the enterprise, was not difficult; to procure the necessary funds for the building of the road was a much more serious task. Subscriptions to the stock were earnestly sought in every direction, and the sum of \$260,000 was at length raised, towards which the town of Woodstock contributed \$100,000. Thursday, January 23, 1868, the directors held a meeting in this village to open and pass upon the bids for the construction of the road or any part of it. There were nine bids, and after spending the day in a careful comparison of them all, the board by a unanimous vote awarded the contract for the whole road to Ralph Jones & Co., of Port Hope, Ontario. Work was begun the following April, but by the time the road-bed was completed to Quechee the funds became exhausted and further work was suspended in consequence.

Here the matter rested for some years, and a favorable result

stock to Barnard, and has continued staging it in some shape in this region up to the present time (June, 1888), a period of fifty-nine years. November 19, 1881, he stocked the road from Woodstock to Bridgewater, where he is now running a "tri-daily" stage. Mr. Billings may

claim that he is perhaps the oldest stage-driver in the United States. Mr. John Cone, who also resides in this village, and has followed the business of staging with such eminent success, began on the route from Woodstock to Hanover about the year 1846.

to the enterprise seemed dubious. In the meantime, to raise funds for the completion of the work, the road was bonded the 15th day of April, 1870, in the sum of \$350,000, and bonds to that amount issued, bearing seven per cent. interest and running twenty years. But the bonds failed to be disposed of, till finally the town of Woodstock, agreeably to an act of the Legislature, approved October 25, 1872, voted on the 2d of April, 1873, to guarantee the interest on \$250,000 of these bonds, to be issued for the completion of the road, when certain conditions set forth in the vote were complied with. The remaining \$100,000 of the bonds were cancelled. On the 8th of August, 1874, under instructions from the stockholders, a contract was made with Mr. S. S. Thompson, of Lyndon, to complete the road, the bonds were guaranteed the 10th, and work on the road was resumed without delay.

Wednesday, the 29th day of September, 1875, it being the second day of the Windsor County Fair, trains were run over the Woodstock Railroad for the first time, and on the first of October following they began to run regularly over the road. Since the road was put in operation it has earned on an average over and above its running expenses more than five thousand dollars a year, which surplus has been applied towards paying the interest on the bonds of the company, pursuant to conditions set forth in the vote of guarantee.

The present officers of the road are, Frederick Billings, President; Justin F. Mackenzie, Vice-President; Charles P. Marsh, Clerk; and James G. Porter, Superintendent and Treasurer.

CHAPTER XXXII.

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF WOODSTOCK — LOCATION — CLIMATE — POPULATION — VARIOUS VILLAGES — ITS HIGHEST HILLS, AND ESPECIALLY MOUNT TOM.

GEOLOGICAL speculations concerning the origin of this beautiful valley of the Quechee, so far as they have been put forth, are not very interesting, as the subject has not received much attention from persons qualified to do it justice. The idea that the waters of the Ottaquechee once flowed into Black River, instead of crossing the line at Sherburn and Bridgewater, and coming down to Woodstock, must be left for consideration to those who have time and ability to enter into such discussions, while we pass to other matters more easily handled.

Woodstock is situated in latitude $43^{\circ} 35'$ north of the equator, and in longitude $72^{\circ} 32'$ west from Greenwich, and at the base of the Town Hall it is 700 feet above the mean sea-level. Its surface is agreeably diversified with hill and valley, and while many of the hills are steep and precipitous, they are clothed with forests or susceptible of cultivation to the very top. The soil is generally fertile, and, under good management, yields abundant crops of vegetables, grain, and grass. The principal fruits are apples and pears, which can be raised in abundance and of good quality without much trouble; other fruits, such as the plum and cherry, of choice kinds, are difficult to produce.

The climate of this Quechee valley is cool but salubrious. It is generally supposed that as a country becomes more extensively settled and cultivated, the climate becomes milder. This scarcely holds true of the valley of the Quechee. Perhaps it is nearer correct to say that the climate is more variable to-day than formerly, and more liable to great extremes of heat and cold. Statistics bearing upon these matters are not without interest to many minds. The year 1779 was remarkably mild; the winter following, equally remarkable for its snows, which accumulated to a depth exceeding five feet on a level, and the weather which attended this great quantity of snow is signalized by a remark

of the old folks, still remembered, that for six weeks not a drop of water was thawed in the sunniest exposure. The last part of the winter of 1786 was intensely cold; then for ten years the winters were comparatively mild. Sunday morning, January 4, 1835, the thermometer stood in this village at 33° below zero according to three thermometers on Elm Street, while others, placed in a different part of the village, indicated 38° below. Some one writing in the "Courier" of the 16th, remarks: "The lowest I have ever known any thermometer in this village, before Sunday morning last, was $28\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ below zero; that was the morning of the 1st of February, 1826. It is near thirty years that I have resided here, and Sunday was the coldest day there has been within that period." January, 1844, was one of the coldest months ever known in Woodstock. For seven consecutive days following upon the 26th, the thermometer indicated a temperature equal to $27\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ below for each morning of the seven, and on Sunday, the 28th, the maximum reading of the thermometer was 4° below. The January we have just passed through (1888) can scarcely equal this, and, if memory serves truly, it was not quite so severe as that of 1844. To add one more fact to this part of the record, on Wednesday morning, January 19, 1887, Mr. Hosea Doton's thermometer registered 45° below zero.

Winter begins in Woodstock about the 1st of December, and continues four months, with good sleighing all the time. This is the orthodox rule, but it is subject to strange variations and exceptions at times. Captain Jacob Wilder used to relate that the year he first came to Woodstock, Christmas day, about 1791, as he went up what is now Central Street and Court Street, he saw a team harrowing in rye on the ground where the Judge Hutchinson house and the stores on Elm Street now stand, and that the ground was in good condition for sowing grain. The December and January of 1847-48 were equally mild, when the ground was bare and no frost almost constantly till the 1st of February, and the plowing of lands and laying stone wall, with other farm work, were going on in every direction. Still more singular was the winter of 1857-58. Through the previous summer and autumn there had been abundant rains and rather cool weather. The season continued mild till February, 1858, when there was a moderately cold snap; spring was early, the summer very pleasant, attended by "golden harvests." On the other

hand, winter sometimes sets in abnormally early. On the 22d of October, 1843, snow fell six inches on the Green and much deeper on the highlands, and did not disappear till the next spring. Saturday, the 18th of October, 1823, it snowed steadily all day; Sunday morning the snow was six inches deep in the village; in Barnard, nearly a foot deep. A week later, another snow came, twelve inches in depth, and Saturday evening the stage went to Royalton on runners. Nineteen years previous to this, it being the 9th of October, 1804, about 9 o'clock in the forenoon, the temperature changed from mild to a violent snow-storm. Wednesday everything was white with the new-fallen snow, fourteen or fifteen inches deep. Along the highlands the wind blew strong, covering fences and blocking up roads with the drifted snow. Great damage was done to fruit trees and shade trees in various places, and the forests resounded with the noise of the branches of the trees breaking under the weight of the snow. Tradition does not preserve the memory of a storm so severe as this, occurring any other year so early in the autumn. Extremes like these, however, are rare, and generally October is the pleasantest season we have in the twelve months.

Our springs, it must be granted, are apt to be tedious and unpoetical, yet experience proves it is better they should be so. Two feet of snow the 1st of April is more promising than bare ground, and a warm April is almost sure to be followed by a cold May and June. The spring of 1842 affords a good illustration. The season opened early; robins appeared the first days of March, and by the 19th the snow was all gone; gardens were partly made before the end of the month. April was very warm, — so warm as to cause Farmer Blake to groan with apprehensions for the future. By the first week of May, vegetation was forward, and there was every promise of a splendid season. Then came a change. Cool weather set in, which culminated, the 11th of June, in a snow-storm, and the next morning (Sunday), ice formed in this village, and the frost cut down everything. The spring of 1859 was another of the same sort; early, warm, and promising, followed by a frosty summer. On the morning of the 5th of July, after several days of cold north wind, the air was so sharp that ice formed, and a field of grain growing on Charles Marsh's hill looked in spots as though fire had passed over it.

Judge Collamer expressed the opinion that the summer was colder than the phenomenally cold season of 1816, which was the year he settled in Royalton, and the uncomfortable experience of the hour caused many to say that the seasons were growing colder every year. But the next summer restored the equilibrium, and by its warmth, beauty, and fertility, revived drooping spirits and gave hope once more to the despondent.

The prevailing wind for the winter in this quarter is from the northwest; in the summer, from the southwest. These are dry winds; our moist winds are southerly and easterly. Snow-storms come from the northeast; if they begin from the southeast, they soon turn into rain, and all our long rains come from the southeast. Thunder-storms, however, come from the west, are generally short, and occur most frequently towards sunset or about ten o'clock at night. Not often do they occur before the beginning of May or after the first week in September. To these general principles concerning the occurrence of thunder-storms there are exceptions. July 30, 1868, about five o'clock in the morning, a storm-cloud passed south of the village, in a southeasterly direction towards Black River. The thunder was violent for half an hour, and was accompanied by a slight fall of rain. A similar phenomenon took place the 22d May, 1871, when a thunder-cloud came up from the west about nine o'clock in the forenoon, for about an hour discharging electricity with tumultuous uproar, but only a little rain fell.

Tornadoes are rarely experienced here. On the 6th of June, 1868, one passed from westward across the south section of this village, about a hundred feet wide, stripping trees, leveling a barn or two, and scattering stone walls in its course; but beyond that, not doing much damage. Parallel with the course of this, and about a mile to the north of it, another twin affair showed itself at the same time, in the vicinity of Cowdrey's barn, which did some damage among the neighbors, and, ranging down the river, disappeared below Quechee village. The storms in this region are generally moderate and free from high winds, the fall of snow at any one time not often exceeding a foot, and the rains being light. Occasionally we have smart showers, when the rainfall will be copious. On the 4th of September, 1870, there fell in the course of twelve hours 2.63 inches by measurement; but according to observations made at the time, almost

the whole of this amount fell inside of three hours. July 17, 1872, there fell, in two hours, 1.45 inches; and on the 10th of August, 1872, half an inch fell in fifteen minutes. The annual amount of precipitation for this village, in rain and melted snow, is not far from 40 inches. Minutes kept by Mr. Hosea Doton, extending over a period of ten years, from 1870 to 1880, show that the total amount of rainfall in the ten years was 388.45 inches, giving an average of 38.85 inches yearly, with the greatest amount for one year (43.96) falling in 1873, and the smallest (37.32) in 1879.

The following table shows the population of Woodstock at each census since 1790: —

1791	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880
1,605	2,132	2,672	2,610	3,044	3,315	3,041	3,062	2,910	2,815

These figures indicate a slight falling off in population within the last forty years. Several causes have operated to bring about this result. No town in the State has contributed more than Woodstock to the emigration westward, which has been steadily going on since the town was organized. At the beginning of the present century, a colony of one hundred started from the South Village for the West, some of the emigrants going as far as St. Charles District, Upper Louisiana (now Missouri). The cold seasons of 1815 and 1816 excited in many of our inhabitants a desire to go into western and warmer climates, and in one year (about 1818) eighty persons left in search of sunnier skies. The tide westward, though never rising so high as that any time since, has never ceased to flow in some degree, and has kept up a constant drain on the numbers, the youthful vigor, and the enterprise of our people. Another striking fact is the following: By the census of 1820, the town of Stowe, in this State, contained 950 inhabitants. A large share of these were emigrants from this town. Then Woodstock forms no exception to the law operating everywhere, that population tends to centralize. For the first forty years after the town was established, the inhabitants were distributed principally along the hillsides, and were nearly all of them devoted to agricultural pursuits. Since that period a change has been steadily going on. The hillsides have lost a large portion of their occupants, while villages have sprung up in different parts of the town, which, on the whole,

have gained in number of inhabitants about as fast as the rural districts have lost. At the risk of some repetition, it will be well enough to speak of these villages once more in order. The South Village is pleasantly situated on South Branch, about five miles from the court-house. It has a church, hotel, post-office, and stores, and is the seat of the Green Mountain Institute. Taftsville, situated down the Quechee, three miles from the court-house, underwent some alterations in its limits in November, 1852, when there was an exchange of a small piece of territory between the northeasterly corner of Woodstock and the southwesterly corner of Hartford; Woodstock gaining, at the same time, about fifteen acres from the northwesterly corner of Hartland. It has a station on the Woodstock Railroad, post-office, store, and scythe manufactory. English's Mills is situated on Barnard Brook, three miles northeast from the court-house, and is the seat of considerable business of a local character. West Woodstock, formerly Bennett's Mills, one mile west from the court-house, has a post-office, established January 1, 1885, and is a beautiful, thriving village. Each of these villages may be said to contain about 200 inhabitants. The North Village, or village of Woodstock, popularly called "the Green," began in 1772 with the family of Joab Hoisington; in 1787 it contained about eight families; in 1807 the inhabitants had increased to 300; by an accurate census, taken the 1st of March, 1828, the population numbered 761; two years later it had reached 942; the population to-day is about 1,500.

In the mean time, though the town since 1840 has not gained in number of inhabitants, it has steadily increased in material wealth. In 1787, the amount of taxable property as set in the grand list was £5,067.16, or a little less than \$25,000; in 1823 it was \$35,265; in 1848 it figured \$898,650; and in 1888 amounted to \$1,912,752. In considering these figures, it must be borne in mind that, by the listing law of 1841, important changes were made in the method of ascertaining the grand list. Previous to that year, it had been customary to enter a large share of the taxable property by name, at a fixed valuation; by the law of 1841, all ratable property was appraised at its cash value. Here again the Green has been a most important factor in this general growth and development of the town in wealth. In 1787, its taxable property was less than one thirteenth of the

whole, or about \$2,000; it is now about \$1,200,000, or more than one half.¹ Certainly the village of Woodstock ought not to be called poor or decaying; neither does it have that look to strangers or others visiting the place. The houses along its streets, with their enclosures, are well kept up, its schools are in flourishing condition, its churches are well sustained. As long as its citizens continue law-abiding, there need be no fear that grass will grow in its streets.²

The Green is completely embosomed in hills, some of them rising to a considerable height. On the east of the village is Blake Hill (now Benjamin S. Dana), 719 feet above the plain; Mount Peg, which overhangs High Street, is about 300 feet; Baylies Hill, south of Mount Peg a short distance, 835.70 feet; then Dunham Hill comes next, rising 961.31 feet. South of Dunham Hill and in the same chain is Garvin Hill, the top of which is in Hartland, and is 1,102 feet in height. The view from Garvin is one of the most extensive and interesting to be found anywhere in this vicinity. Long Hill, some few miles westward from the Green, is 1,724.48 feet high.³ Montague Hill, in North Bridgewater, a short drive from the Green, rises 1,823.57 feet. To these altitudes may be added, as items of some local interest, the descent from Meeting-House, Bridgewater, to the Green, 153.90 feet; from the Green to Taft's Bridge, 60.46 feet; to the old Quechee Bridge, 134.70 feet; to the terminus of the Woodstock Railroad Survey (Junction), 344.69 feet; the Institute, South Woodstock, above town hall, 377.90 feet. All the above

¹ The grand list of the village for 1886, the last on which a tax has been laid, was \$12,319.54, one per cent. of the taxable property appraised for that year. For 1888 it would be larger.

² If new houses do not go up very fast in the village of Woodstock, the old ones are, in every direction, constantly undergoing repairs, and being beautified and made more wholesome. It may not be deemed improper to allude here to the extended improvements Mr. F. S. Mackenzie is making in his landed estate on Pleasant Street, where, among other work done, he has erected fine and capacious green-houses. During the season of 1887, the Universalist chapel was entirely remodeled inside and fitted up, at a large expense, with all the modern im-

provements. The Methodist church underwent similar repairs and improvements the same season (June, 1888.)

³ The altitude as ascertained by George P. Marsh and Charles Marsh, October 3 and 4, 1857. Mr. Hosea Doton, assisted by Mr. H. F. Dunham and others, visited the summit of this hill the second week in August, 1873. By measurements then made, the height of the most westerly summit was found to be 1,707 feet above the town hall. The point about half a mile southeasterly of the first was found to be 49 feet higher, or 1,756 feet above the town hall. The last-mentioned peak is the highest point of land in Woodstock, except a peak three quarters of a mile southeasterly from it, which is understood to be a few feet higher.

altitudes are given with reference to the town hall in this village as a base, which is 700 feet above mean tide. Some of them vary a little from the figures given for the same points in Beers' Map of Windsor County.

Mount Tom, mentioned as early as 1772, in a deed from Oliver Willard to Joab Hoisington, consists of two peaks, and is situated to the west of the village, which spreads out in that direction to the base of the mountain. The south peak is 537.03 feet, and the north peak 641.82 feet above the base of the town hall. In historic times this mountain has not been the scene of any very remarkable events. About the beginning of the present century it was burnt over in the month of October, from a fire kindled through the carelessness of some one hunting in the woods. In 1845 it came near burning over again. Behind Mount Tom, in a deep basin at the foot of the George Thomas Hill, lies Pogue Hole, a natural pond (enlarged, probably by a beaver dam), covering twelve or fifteen acres, and containing an immense deposit of marl and muck. Connected with the early memories of Pogue Hole is one sad tale: here being the spot where Moses Samson was accidentally shot and killed by Nathan Tinkham, June 15, 1781, while the two were hunting deer together along the edge of the pond.

All this tract of land, embracing Mount Tom and its slopes, the basin of Pogue Hole, and the Dana farm, now forms part of Mr. Frederick Billings's mountain domain, over which he has constructed a network of roads five miles or more in extent, and furnishing delightful drives and walks through the forest. One branch of this long stretch of roads he has extended to the top of the ridge north of Pogue Hole, from whence to the south is a fine view of the pond and the slopes of the basin in which it rests, and to the north another fine view, embracing Barnard Brook, North Bridgewater, Pomfret Centre and its meeting-house. Another branch he has laid to the top of the south peak of Mount Tom; a piece of road which, considering it is the work of individual enterprise, may be compared, in its massive structure, to the old Roman roads, built when Rome held the empire of the world. The view from South Peak is very attractive, embracing the entire extent of the village, and Quechee valley from the old Williams farm to Taftsville, with the Green Mountains, Ascutney, and the hills of New Hampshire in the distance.



On the easterly slope of North Peak, in the old pasture cleared by Mr. Marsh in 1797, when he built the bridge at the foot of Elm Street, Mr. Billings has located his green-house at an elevation of seventy feet above the town hall ; and to the natural forest spread over the greater part of this mountain tract he has added fifteen or twenty thousand young trees of various kinds, set out from season to season, since he became the owner of this property.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

CONCLUSION.

IN taking leave of this work, which has employed many a leisure hour and much laborious research, and presenting it to the public, it seems proper to take a cursory glance at the nature and character of the work, and at the men and events therein referred to.

To those who have looked into this volume it is needless to say that it deals mainly with the events of the past, rather than with the affairs of the present, and necessarily dwells upon matters of special and local interest. As a true history of the town it could hardly be otherwise. Thus it treats pretty fully of the first settlement and early growth of the town, and of the privations and struggles of its early pioneers in their separate families, — their hardships, their cares, their discouragements, their patient labors, and final success.

To those, therefore, who shall have taken up this book expecting to find in it a continuous narrative of such matters only as might interest the general reader, it may perhaps have been a disappointment.

It is hoped, however, that in its present form it may at least be of interest to the descendants of the early settlers, and that among our people there will be many who will resort to these pages for information about the personal and local affairs of those early times, and that hereafter the children will consult this volume to learn of the character and deeds of their ancestors, a knowledge of which may here be preserved in a more enduring form than if left to uncertain traditions; and also that the general reader may find somewhat of interest in other portions of the work, — that he may be interested to look upon the first rude phases of pioneer life, the gradual improvement of its condition, and the growth and crystallization into their present forms, of the various civil, religious, and educational institutions of the present; a proper understanding of which matters will enable him more fully to comprehend the early labors, the hardships,

and the generous devotion of the noble men and women who did so much in laying the foundations of the beautiful homes and the pleasant lives which we now enjoy.

Not to comment too much upon the character of this work, it may yet be proper to say of its illustrations, that it was not within the scheme and purpose of the work to give to it a pictorial character, to please the eye, but rather to make it more useful and attractive by placing between its leaves some pictures of the old landmarks, interesting to us now as historical objects, and likely to grow in interest hereafter, — such as the old Powers homestead, the Marsh homestead, the Williams mansion, some of the old public buildings, like the old schoolhouse, courthouse, hotels, and the oldest meeting-house now standing, besides some more recent objects, that will be of increasing interest in the future.

As a history of the town, it was important to trace the progress not only of its material growth, but also of that which marks its moral and intellectual advancement in its various stages of development, — its early youth, its strenuous manhood, and its more mature life. In these pages the reader may find some glimpses of the life of our people in these various conditions, and especially of the lives of those remarkable men whose names have been so long identified with Woodstock, and who stamped their lives upon the character of its people.

It might be interesting, did space permit, to speak a little more in review of some of the more prominent men of those early days, — of Marsh, once the acknowledged leader of the Vermont bar; of Hutchinson, who long held the highest place upon the bench; of Collamer, alike distinguished as lawyer, judge, and statesman; of the younger Marsh, renowned as a scholar and diplomatist; and of Hiram Powers, whose world-wide fame has carried the name of Woodstock, associated with his own, wherever in the wide realms of art his name has been sounded, by reason of the beautiful creations of his genius. But these and many other of our once distinguished men have already been fully commented upon in other portions of this work.

In attempting to estimate the character of those men of the early times, in looking back through the haze of time, we may perhaps, in some degree, be deceived by the glamour which surrounds distant objects, yet after making all due allowance for

that, we must confess to a feeling of profound admiration and respect for those leading men of the past generation, — great they were, — noble men, who left their impress upon the history of their time, and gave to the town a rank and prestige not second to any in the State.

No mean comparison may be instituted between those men and the men of the present time. It would be invidious and in bad taste. Let us rather cherish their fame and honor their memories as the common property of us all. Enough that it was left for the men of the present to build upon the foundations which they laid, to take up the work as they left it, and endeavor to help forward the moral, social, and material interests of our people. Have we done so? Let us look around. We have but to open our eyes to witness such advancements. Our improved highways and solid bridges, our pleasant villages adorned with beautiful parks and private dwellings, our railroad and aqueduct, our excellent schools and valuable public library, — these all speak for the more recent labors of our people.

The town itself may not now display the life and stir of its earlier years, — such conditions belong to a progressive age, with its quicker pulsations of young life, — but if it exhibits more of the staid repose and quiet serenity of mature age, at the same time it enjoys, perhaps, a higher grade of education, a purer morality, and a more refined social life.

But while we — perhaps too much — commend our own labors, we must not forget what nature has done for Woodstock without our help. Our beautiful streams, our pleasant valleys, our mountains with their wooded summits, surrounding us as the mountains stood round about Jerusalem, — these constitute the pride and glory of Woodstock; and as we look at them we may well say, “Our lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, and we have a goodly heritage;” and in looking forward to the future we may not doubt that long after those who are here to-day shall have passed away and been forgotten, Woodstock will continue to be the home of an enlightened, a prosperous, and a happy people.

APPENDIX.

I.

THE BENNING WENTWORTH CHARTER OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOODSTOCK, 1761.

*Original not found. Printed from certified copy obtained by Mr. Charles Marsh
in 1795, from the office of the Secretary of State, Concord, N. H.*

WOODSTOCK PROVINCE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

GEORGE the Third By the Grace of God, of Great-Britain,
[L. S.] France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

To all Persons to whom these Presents shall come, GREETING.

KNOW ye, that We of our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, for the due encouragement of settling a new plantation within our said Province, by and with the advice of our trusty and well-beloved Benning Wentworth, Esq. our Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Province of New-Hampshire, in New-England, and of our council of the said Province, HAVE upon the conditions and reservations herein after made, given and granted, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, do give and grant in equal shares, unto our loving subjects, inhabitants of our said Province of New-Hampshire, and our other Governments, and to their heirs and assigns forever, whose names are entered on this Grant, to be divided to and amongst them into Sixty Eight equal shares, all that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being within our said Province of New-Hampshire, containing by admeasurement, Twenty Four Thousand Acres Nine Hundred acres, which tract is to contain something more than Six miles square, *and no more*, out of which an allowance is to be made for high-ways and unimproveable lands by rocks, ponds, mountains and rivers, one thousand and forty acres free, according to a plan and survey thereof, made by our said Governor's order, and returned into the Secretary's office, and hereunto annexed, butted and bounded as follows, viz. — Beginning at the North West corner of Windsor, from thence North sixty five deg^s West five miles & one half mile, from thence north thirty two degrees East seven miles & one half mile to the Southwest corner of Pomfret from thence South Sixty two degrees East five miles & one half mile to the North west corner of Hartford from thence South thirty three degrees west by Hartford west line to the first bounds mentioned And that the same be, and hereby is incorporated into a Township by the name of Woodstock And the inhabitants that do or shall hereafter inhabit the said Township,

are hereby declared to be enfranchized with and intitled to all and every the priviledges and immunities that other towns within our Province by law exercise and enjoy: And further, that the said Town as soon as there shall be fifty families resident and settled thereon, shall have the liberty of holding two Fairs, one of which shall be held on the ——— and the other on the ——— annually, which Fairs are not to continue longer than the respective ——— following the said ——— and that as soon as the said Town shall consist of fifty families, a market may be opened and kept one or more days in each week, as may be thought most advantageous to the inhabitants. Also, that the first meeting for the choice of Town Officers, agreeable to the laws of our said Province, shall be held on the last Tuesday of Aug^t next which said meeting shall be notified by Oliver Willard who is hereby also appointed Moderator of the said first meeting, which he is to notify and govern agreeable to the laws and customs of our said Province; and that the annual meeting forever hereafter for the choice of such officers for the said Town, shall be on the Second Tuesday of March annually, To Have and to Hold the said tract of land as above expressed, together with all priviledges and appurtenances, to them and their respective heirs and assigns forever, upon the following conditions, viz. —

1 — That every Grantee, his heirs or assigns shall plant and cultivate five acres of land within the term of five years for every fifty acres contained in his or their share or proportion of land in said Township, and continue to improve and settle the same by additional cultivations, on penalty of the forfeiture of his grant or share in the said Township, and of its reverting to us, our heirs and successors, to be by us, or them re-granted to such of our subjects as shall effectually settle and cultivate the same.

2 — That all white and other pine trees within the said Township, fit for masting our Royal Navy, be carefully preserved for that use, and none to be cut or felled without our special licence for so doing first had and obtained, upon the penalty of the forfeiture of the right of such Grantee, his heirs and assigns, to us, our heirs and successors, as well as being subject to the penalty of any act or acts of parliament that now are, or hereafter shall be enacted.

3 — That before any division of the land be made to and among the Grantees, a tract of land as near the centre of the said Township as the land will admit of, shall be reserved and marked out for Town Lots, one of which shall be allotted to each Grantee of the contents of one acre.

4 — Yielding and paying therefor to us, our heirs and successors for the space of ten years, to be computed from the date hereof, the rent of one ear of Indian Corn only, on the twenty fifth day of December annu-

ally, if lawfully demanded, the first payment to be made on the 25th of Dec^r 1761 5^{thly} Every proprietor, settler or inhabitant, shall yield and pay unto us, our heirs and successors yearly, and every year forever, from and after the expiration of ten years, from the above-said twenty fifth day of Decem^r namely, on the twenty fifth day of December which will be in the year of our Lord 1772 one shilling proclamation money for every hundred acres he so owns, settles or possesses, and so in proportion for a greater or lesser tract of the said land; which money shall be paid by the respective persons above-said, their heirs, or assigns, in our Council Chamber in Portsmouth, or to such Officer or Officers as shall be appointed to receive the same; and this to be in lieu of all other rents and services whatsoever.

In Testimony whereof, We have caused the Seal of our said Province to be hereunto affixed. Witness Benning Wentworth Esq. our Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Province the Tenth day of July in the year of our LORD CHRIST, One Thousand, Seven Hundred and sixty one and in the First year of our Reign.

B. WENTWORTH.

By his Excellency's Command,
With advice of Council,
THEODORE ATKINSON Sec^r

PRO^r OF NEW HAMP^s *July 10, 1761.*

Recorded according to the original Charter under the Province Seal
THEODORE ATKINSON Sec^r

The Names of the Grantees of Woodstock viz —

David Page	John Grout
Nathaniel Smith	Solomon Willson
Ephraim Stockwell	Joseph Willson
Joel Grout	John Darling
Seth Hudson	Nathaniel Page
Samuel Bryant	Joseph Page
David Page jun ^r	William Page
Thomas Shattock	Jon ^a Grout
Thomas Rogers	James Partricks
Eph ^m Shattock	Andrew Derrumple
Merodock Smith	Edmond Stockwell
John Rogers	Natha ^l Wheelwright
Joseph Stoel	William Hoskins
Israel Stowel	Philip Gutridge
Elijah Grout	Josiah Grout

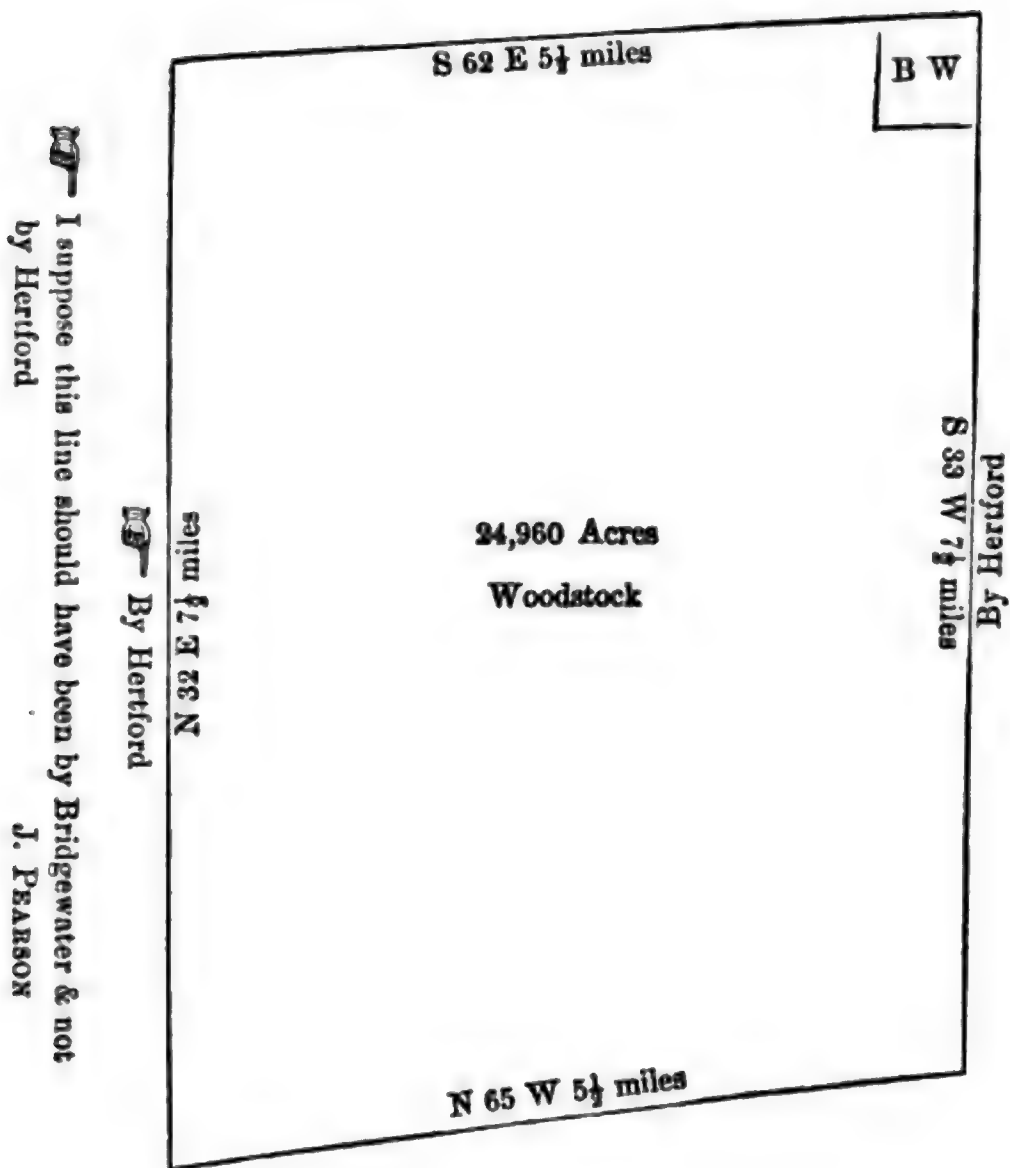
John Church	Aaron Smith
William Powers	Abel Willard
James Powers	Joseph Ashley Jun ^r
James Powers	Henry Foster
Philip Alexander	John Holton
Joseph Perry	Joseph Winn
Atherton Chafey	Rich ^d Wibird Esq.
Joshua Warner	James Nevin Esq.
Daniel Warner	Jon ^s Tuck
Samuel Skinner	Zebulon Giddings
Jacob Hall	Abner Morrel
Simeon Hall	John Moffat Esq.
Richard Chamberlain	Thomas Harte
Joseph Chamberlain	Capt George King
Daniel Hubbard	W ^m Parker Esq. and
Moses Smith	Matthew Livermore Esq.

His Excellency Benning Wentworth a tract of land to contain five hundred acres as marked in the plan B W which is to be accounted two of the within shares one whole share for the incorporated Society for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts, one share for a Glebe for the Church of England as by law Established, one share for the first settled of the Gospel, one share for the benefit of a school in said Town

PROVINCE OF NEW HAMP^s *July 10, 1761*

Recorded from the back of the original Charter under the Prov^s Seal

THEODORE ATKINSON Sec^y



PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE July 10, 1761

Recorded from the back of the original Charter

THEODORE ATKINSON Secy

SECRETARYS OFFICE Jany 22^d 1795. — The above and the within is a true copy of the Charter of Woodstock as recorded in the second book of Charters folio 57 and onward

Attest JOSEPH PEARSON Secy

II.

THE GOVERNOR TRYON NEW YORK CHARTER, 1772.

Original deposited in the Norman Williams Public Library.

GEORGE the third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and so forth To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting Whereas our province of New York in America hath ever since the Grant thereof to James Duke of York been abutted and bounded to the East in part by the West Bank or side of Connecticut River and whereas of late years great part of our said Province lying to the Westward of the same River hath nevertheless been pretended to be granted by divers Instruments under the Great Seal of the province of New Hampshire as tho' the same Land had then belonged to and were within the Bounds and Limits of the said province of New Hampshire and within the power and Jurisdiction of the Government thereof. And Whereas among others the Tract of Land by these presents hereinafter granted part of our said province of New York as aforesaid hath been so pretended to be granted and to be erected into a Township of the said province of New Hampshire by the Name of Woodstock. And whereas our loving Subject Levi Willard by his humble petition in Behalf of himself and his associates presented unto our late trusty and well beloved Sir Henry Moore Baronet then our Captain General and Governor in Chief of our said province of New York and read in our Council for our said province of New York on the Twenty eighth Day of January which was in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty seven did set forth among other Things in Substance That there was a certain Tract of Land lying in our province of New York called by the Name of Woodstock Beginning at the Northwest corner of Windsor from thence running North sixty five degrees West five Miles and one half Mile, from thence North Thirty two Degrees East seven Miles and a half to the South West Corner of a Tract of Land commonly called and known by the Name of Pomfret, from thence South Sixty two Degrees East five miles and an half to the North west Corner of the Township of Hertford, from thence South Thirty Degrees West by the West Line of Hertford to the Bounds first mentioned; That the petitioner and his Associates were Owners and Proprietors of the same Tract of Land, that they held the same under

our province of New Hampshire; That they supposed their Title to be good until our Royal Order in Council fixing the West Bank of Connecticut River as the Boundary Line between our province of New York and New Hampshire, and that they were willing and desirous to secure their property, possessions and Improvements by obtaining a Grant of the same under the Seal of our province of New York and therefore the petitioner did humbly pray that our said late Captain General and Governor in Chief would be pleased by our Letters patent to grant unto the petitioner and his associates and their Heirs the Tract of Land aforesaid containing Twenty Four thousands Nine hundred and Sixty acres and that the same might be erected into a Township by the Name of Woodstock and vested with such powers and privileges as other Towns in our said province of New York had and did enjoy. Which Petition having been then referred to a Committee of our Council for our said province of New York our same council did afterward on the same Day in pursuance of the Report of the said Committee humbly Advise and Consent that our said late Captain General and Governor in Chief should by our Letters patent grant to the said Levi Willard and the other persons mentioned in the said Report and their Heirs the Tract of Land aforesaid under the Quit Rent provisoes Limitations and Restrictions prescribed by our Royal Instructions Except the Shares and proportions of the said Tract of Land formerly allotted to Richard Wiberd, James Nevin, Jonathan Tuck, Zebulon Giddings, and Abner Morrel which having no improvement made thereon were to remain vested in us. That the several Shares of the said Tract which by the pretended Grant or Charter from the Government of New Hampshire were intended for public Uses be granted in Trust as follows that is to say, One such share for the use of the Incorporated Society for the propagation of the Gospel in Foreign parts, a like Share as a Glebe for the use of the Minister of the Gospel in Communion of the Church of England as by Law established for the Time being residing on the said Tract. A like Share for the first settled Minister of the Gospel on the said Tract and one hundred acres for the use of a Schoolmaster residing on the same Tract and that the whole of the said Tract of Land should be erected into a Township by the name of Woodstock with the usual privileges. And Whereas our loving Subject Oliver Willard by his humble petition in Behalf of himself and the other Owners and Proprietors under the pretended Grant of New Hampshire of the Tract of Land aforesaid presented unto our trusty and well beloved William Tryon Esquire Our Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over our said province of New York and the Territories depending thereon in America Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the same and read in our Council for our said province of New York on the fifth Day of February

now last past writing the proceedings aforesaid did set forth among other Things in Substance, that sundry of the persons in whose names our Letters Patent for the said Tract of Land were directed to issue as aforesaid are since Deceased and others since removed to places far distant, on which account it is become necessary that our Grant of the said Tract when passed should issue in the Names of six other persons, and therefore the said petitioner Oliver Willard did humbly pray that when our Letters Patent should issue for the said Tract of Land called Woodstock the persons whose names are mentioned in the Schedule to the said last recited petition annexed might be inserted in our said Letters Patent and that the Shares of the said Tract so directed as aforesaid to remain vested in us might be included in our Grant for the Benefit of the present Owners thereof. On due consideration of which said last recited petition Our same Council did humbly advise that when our Letters Patent should issue for the said Tract of Land called Woodstock Our said last mentioned Governor should issue the same agreeable to the Order and proceedings on the said first recited petition. But that instead of the persons to whom the said Tract of Land was thereby advised or intended to be granted Our said Letters Patent should issue in the names of the persons mentioned in the Schedule aforesaid and that the Shares and proportions of the said Tract of Land so formerly allotted to the persons above named and directed to remain vested in us as aforesaid should be included in and granted by our said Letters Patent for the Benefit of the present Owners thereof. In Pursuance whereof and in obedience to our said Royal Instructions our Commissioners appointed for the setting out all Lands to be granted within our said Province of New York here set out for the several persons named in the Schedule aforesaid To wit the said Oliver Willard, and Isaac Corsa, Joseph Bull, John Blagge, William A. Forks, Benjamin Stout Jun', Cornelius Vandenburgh, Peter Vandervoort, William Talman, George Birks, Henry Gulick, William Clark, John B. Stout, Benjamin Stout, Henry Beekman, John Fowler, Caleb Hyatt, Daniel Goldsmith, Daniel Green, Samuel Stevens, Charles McEvers, James Seagrove, Christopher Blindell and Adam Gilchrist. All that certain Tract or parcel of Land known by the name of Woodstock, Situate lying and being on the West side of Connecticut River in the County of Cumberland within our province of New York. Beginning at the Southwest Corner of the Township of Hertford granted to Oliver Willard and others, and runs thence North Sixty five Degrees West four hundred and forty Chains; Then North Thirty two Degrees East six hundred and two Chains; Then South Sixty two Degrees East four hundred and forty eight Chains to the Northwest Corner of the said Township of Hertford, Then along the West bounds of the said Township of Hertford South Thirty three

Degrees West Five hundred and Eighty Chains to the place where this Tract of Land began Containing Twenty four thousand and seven hundred acres of Land and the usual allowance for Highways, Including a Tract of five hundred Acres of Land granted to Lieutenant William Leslie, and containing exclusive of the said Tract and of the four Lots of Land hereinafter described the Quantity of Twenty three thousand and two Hundred Acres of Land and the usual allowance for Highways. And also our said Commissioners have set out to be granted in Trust for the Uses and Purposes hereinafter mentioned the following four Lots of Land parts and parcels of the said larger Tract so set out as aforesaid that is to say, For the use of the Incorporated Society for the propagation of the Gospel in Foreign parts. All that certain Lot or Parcel of Land Distinguished by the Name of the First Lot and which Begins at the Southwest Corner of the above mentioned larger Tract of which this first Lot is a part, and runs from the said place of beginning along the South Bounds of the said larger Tract, South Sixty five Degrees East one hundred Chains; Then North Thirty two Degrees East Thirty one Chains and two Rods; Then North Sixty five Degrees West one hundred Chains to the West Bounds of the said larger Tract and then along the said West Bounds South Thirty two Degrees West Thirty one Chains and two Rods to the place where this Lot began Containing three hundred Acres of Land and the usual allowance for Highways. For a Glebe for the use of the Minister of the Gospel in Communion of the Church of England as by Law established for the Time being residing on the said larger Tract. All that certain Lot or parcel of Land Distinguished by the Name of the Second Lot and which Begins in the West Bounds of the said larger Tract at the Northwest Corner of the said first Lot and runs thence along the North Bounds of the said first Lot South Sixty five Degrees East one hundred Chains; Then North Thirty two Degrees East Thirty one Chains and two Rods; Then North Sixty five Degrees West one hundred Chains to the West Bounds of the said larger Tract, and then along the said West Bounds South Thirty two Degrees West Thirty one Chains and two Rods to the place where this Second Lot began Containing three hundred Acres of Land and the usual Allowance for Highways. For the first settled Minister of the Gospel on the said larger Tract, All that certain Lot or Parcel of Land Distinguished by the Name of the Third Lot and which begins in the West Bounds of the said larger Tract at the Northwest Corner of the said second Lot and runs thence along the North Bounds of the said second Lot South Sixty five Degrees East one hundred Chains; Then North Thirty two Degrees East Thirty one Chains and two Rods; Then North Sixty five Degrees West one hundred Chains to the West Bounds of the said larger Tract, and then along the said West

Bounds South Thirty two Degrees West Thirty one Chains and two Rods to the place where this third Lot began Containing three hundred acres of Land and the usual allowance for Highways. And for the use of a School-master, residing on the said larger Tract All that certain Lot or Parcel of Land Distinguished by the Name of the Fourth Lot and which begins in the West Bounds of the said larger Tract at the Northwest Corner of the said third Lot and runs thence along the North Bounds of the said third Lot South Sixty five Degrees East one hundred Chains; Then North Thirty two Degrees East Ten Chains and two Rods; Then North Sixty five Degrees West one hundred Chains to the West Bounds of the said larger Tract and then along the said West Bounds South Thirty two Degrees West Ten Chains and two Rods to the place where this fourth Lot began Containing one hundred acres of Land and the usual allowance for Highways. And in setting out the said larger Tract and the several Lots and Parcels of Land last described Our said Commissioners have had regard to the profitable and unprofitable acres and have taken Care that the Length of any of them doth not extend along the Banks of any River otherwise than is conformable to our said Royal Instructions as by a Certificate there of under their Hands having Date the Twenty first Day of May now last past and entered on Record in our Secretary's Office for our said Province of New York may now fully appear. Which said Tract of Twenty four thousand and seven hundred Acres of Land and the usual allowance for Highways so set out as aforesaid according to our Royal Instructions We being willing to grant to the said Oliver Willard and the other persons mentioned in the last recited petition their Heirs and assigns for ever (Except as is hereinafter excepted) with the several powers and privileges and to and upon the several and respective use and uses, Trusts, Intents and Purposes Limitations, and Appointments and under the several Reservations, Exceptions, Provisoos and Conditions hereinafter expressed, limited, declared and appointed of and concerning the same and every part and parcel thereof respectively. Know Ye, That of our especial Grace certain Knowledge and meer Motion We have given granted ratified and confirmed and Do by these Presents for us Our Heirs and Successors give grant ratify and confirm unto them the said Oliver Willard, Isaac Corsa, Joseph Bull, John Blagge, William A. Forbes, Benjamin Stout Junior, Cornelius Vandenberg, Peter Vandervoort, William Talman, George Birks, Henry Gulick, William Clark, John B. Stout, Benjamin Stout, Henry Beekman, John Fowler, Caleb Hyatt, Daniel Goldsmith, Daniel Green, Samuel Stevens, Charles McEvers, James Seagrove, Christopher Blindell, and Adam Gilchrist, their Heirs and Assigns for ever All that the aforesaid large Tract or parcel of Land set out abutted bounded and described by our said Com-

missioners in Manner and Form as above mentioned (Except thereout as hereinafter is excepted) and including all these the aforementioned several smaller Tracts or Lots of Land severally and respectively set out, by our said Commissioners as parts and parcels of the same large Tract; For the use of the Incorporated Society for the propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts; For a Glebe for the use of the Minister of the Gospel in Communion of the Church of England as by Law Established; For the first settled Minister of the Gospel on the said larger Tract, and for the use of a School-master residing on the said larger Tract Together with all and Singular the Tenements, Hereditaments, Emoluments, and Appurtenances, to the same and every part and parcel thereof belonging or appertaining And also all our Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Possession, Claim and Demand whatsoever of in and to the same Lands and Premises hereby granted and every part and parcel thereof and the Reversion and Reversions, Remainder and Remainders, Rents Issues and Profits thereof and of every Part and Parcel thereof Except and always reserved out of this our present Grant all that the aforesaid certain Tract or Parcel of Land containing Five hundred acres hercin before mentioned to be granted unto Lieutenant William Leslie together with all and every the Appurtenances thereunto belonging, the same Tract or Parcel of Land being included within the Bounds and Limits of the larger Tract of Twenty four thousand and seven hundred acres of Land hereinbefore described and within the Township by these Presents hereinafter constituted. And also Except and always reserved out of this our present Grant unto us, Our Heirs and Successors for ever All Mines of Gold and Silver and also all white or other Sorts of Pine Trees fit for Masts of the Growth of Twenty four Inches Diameter and upwards at Twelve Inches from the Earth for Masts for the Royal Navy of us, our Heirs and Successors, To have and to hold all and singular the said Lands, Tenements Hereditaments and Premises by the Presents.

Granted ratified and confirmed and every part and parcel thereof with their and every of their Appurtenances (Except as is hereinbefore excepted) unto them our Grantees above mentioned their Heirs and Assigns for ever. To for and upon the several and respective Use and Uses Trusts, Intents and purposes hereinafter expressed, limited declared and appointed of and concerning the same and every part and parcel thereof respectively and to and for no other use or uses, Intent or purpose whatsoever that is to say As for and concerning All that the before mentioned small Tract Lot or Parcel of Land so set out for the Incorporated Society for the propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts as aforesaid being part and parcel of the said Tract of Land and premises hereby granted ratified and confirmed and within the Township

by these presents hereinafter constituted and every part and parcel of the same Lot of Land with the Appurtenances to the same belonging (Except as is hereinbefore excepted) To and for the only proper and seperate use and Behoof of the Society for the propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts above mentioned and their Successors for ever and to and for no other use or uses, Intent or purpose whatsoever. And as for and concerning All that the before mentioned small Tract Lot or parcel of Land so set out as and for a Glebe for the use of a Minister of the Gospel in Communion of the Church of England as by Laws Established being part and parcel of the said Tract of Land and premises hereby granted ratified and confirmed and within the Township by these presents hereinafter constituted and every part and parcel of the same Lot of Land with the Appurtenances to the same belonging (Except as is hereinbefore excepted) In Trust as and for a Glebe for ever To and for the only proper and seperate use, Benefit and Behoof of the first Minister of the Gospel in Communion of the Church of England as by Law Established having the Cure of Souls and residing on the said Tract of Land hereby granted and his Successors for ever Ministers as aforesaid for the Time being residing as aforesaid and to and for no other use or uses, Intent or purpose whatsoever, And as for and concerning All that the before mentioned small Tract Lot or Parcel of Land so set out for the first settled Minister on the said Tract of Land hereby granted the same Lot or Parcel of Land being part and parcel of the same Tract hereby granted ratified and confirmed and within the Township by these Presents hereinafter constituted and every part and parcel of the same Lot of Land with the Appurtenances to the same belonging (Except as is hereinbefore excepted) In Trust to and for the sole proper and seperate Use, Benefit and Behoof of the first settled Minister of the Gospel that shall be settled and officiating on the said Tract of Land hereby granted his Heirs and Assigns for ever, And In Trust also that our said Grantees their Heirs or Assigns shall well and truly by good and sufficient Assurances in the Law convey the same last mentioned small Tract or Lot of Land with the Appurtenance to such Minister of the Gospel as shall be first settled and officiating as aforesaid, his Heirs and Assigns forever in Fee Simple as soon as may be after such Minister shall be settled and officiating as aforesaid and to and for no other use or uses, Intent or Purpose whatsoever. And as for and concerning All that other small Tract Lot or Parcel of Land so set out for the use of a Schoolmaster being also part and parcel of the said Tract of Land and premises hereby granted ratified and confirmed and within the Township by these Presents hereinafter constituted and every part and parcel of the same Lot of Land with the Appurtenances to the same belonging (Except as is hereinbefore excepted) In Trust for

ever To and for the sole and seperate use Benefit and Behoof of the first Public Schoolmaster of the Township by these Presents hereinafter constituted and erected officiating and resident in the same Township and his Successors Schoolmasters as aforesaid forever and to and for no other use or uses Intent or purposes whatsoever And as for and concerning All the rest residue and remainder of the said Tract of Land Tenements Hereditaments and premises hereby granted ratified and confirmed To have and to hold one full and equal Twenty fourth part (the whole into Twenty four equal parts to be divided) of the said rest residue and remainder and every part and parcel thereof with all and every the Appurtenances to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining (Except as is hereinbefore excepted) unto each of them the said Oliver Willard, Isaac Corsa, Joseph Bull, John Blagge, William A. Forbes, Benjamin Stout Junior, Cornelius Vandenburg, Peter Vandervoort, William Talman, George Birks, Henry Gulick, William Clark, John B. Stout, Benjamin Stout, Henry Beekman, John Fowler, Caleb Hyatt, Daniel Goldsmith, Daniel Green, Samuel Stevens, Charles McEvers, James Seagrove, Christopher Blindell, and Adam Gilchrist, their Heirs and assigns respectively, To their only proper and seperate use and Behoof respectively for ever as Tenants in Common and not as Joint Tenants and to and for no other Use or Uses, Intent or purpose whatsoever. All and Singular the said Tract of Land and Premises hereby granted and every part and parcel thereof To be holden of us Our Heirs and Successors in free and common socage as of our Manor of East Greenwich in our County of Kent within our Kingdom of Great Britain Yielding, rendering and paying therefor Yearly and every Year for or unto us, our Heirs and Successors at our Custom House in our City of New York in our said Province of New York unto our or their Collector or Receiver General these for the Time being on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary commonly called Lady Day the Yearly Rent of Two Shillings and six pence Sterling for each and every hundred Acres of the above Granted Lands and so in proportion for any lesser Quantity thereof saving and except for such part of the said Lands allowed for Highways as above mentioned in Lieu and Stead of all other Rents, Services, Dues, Duties, and Demands whatsoever for the hereby granted Lands and Premises or any part thereof And We Do of our especial Grace certain Knowledge and meer Motion create erect and constitute the said large Tract containing Twenty four thousand and seven hundred Acres of Land herein before mentioned and every part and parcel thereof a Township for ever hereafter to be continue and remain and by the Name of Woodstock forever hereafter to be called and known And for the better and more easily carrying on and managing the Public Affairs and Business of the said Township Our

Royal Will and Pleasure is and We do hereby for us our Heirs and Successors give and grant to the Inhabitants of the said Township all the Powers, Authorities, Privileges, and advantages heretofore given and granted to or legally enjoyed by all any or either our other Townships within our said Province of New York. And we also ordain and Establish that there shall be for ever hereafter in the said Township Two Assessors, One Treasurer, Two Overseers of the Highways, Two Overseers of the Poor, One Collector and Four Constables elected and chosen out of the Inhabitants of the said Township Yearly and every year on the third Tuesday in May at the most public place in the said Township by the Majority of the Freeholders thereof then and there met and assembled for that purpose; Hereby Declaring that where-soever the first Election in the said Township shall be held the Future Elections shall for ever thereafter be held in the same place as near as may be, and giving and granting to the said Officers so chosen power and authority to exercise their said several and respective Offices during one whole year from such Election and until others are legally chosen and elected in their Room and Stead as fully and amply as any the like Officers have or legally may use or exercise their Offices in our said Province of New York. And in Case any or either of the said Officers of the said Township should die or remove from the said Township before the Time of their Annual Service shall be expired or refuse to Act in the Offices for which they shall respectively be chosen, Then our Royal Will and Pleasure further is and We Do hereby Direct, Ordain, and Require the Freeholders of the said Township to meet at the Place where the Annual Election shall be held for the said Township and choose other or others of the said Inhabitants of the said Township in the Place and Stead of him or them so dying removing or refusing to Act within Forty Days next after such Contingency. And to prevent any undue Election in this Case We do hereby Ordain and Require, That upon every Vacancy in the Office of Assessors the Treasurer and in either of the other Offices the Assessors of the said Township shall within Ten days next after any such Vacancy first happens appoint the Day for such Election and give Public Notice thereof in Writing under his or their Hands by affixing such Notice on the Church Door or other most Public Place in the said Township at the least Ten Days before the Day appointed for such Election, And in Default thereof We do hereby require the officer or officers of the said Township or the Survivors of them who in the order they are hereinbefore mentioned shall next succeed him or them so making Default within Ten Days next after such Default to appoint the Day for such Election and give Notice thereof as aforesaid. Hereby giving and granting that such person or persons as shall be so chosen by the Majority of such of the Freeholders

of the said Township as shall meet in manner hereby directed shall have hold exercise and enjoy the office or offices to which he or they shall be so elected and chosen from the Time of such Election until the third Tuesday in May then next following and until other or others be legally chosen in his or their place and Stead as fully as the Person or Persons in whose Place he or they shall be chosen might or could have done by Virtue of these presents. And We do hereby Will and Direct, That this Method shall for ever hereafter be used for filling up all Vacancies that shall happen in any or either of the said Offices between the Annual Elections above directed. Provided always and upon Condition nevertheless, That if our said Grantees their Heirs or Assigns or some or one of them shall within three years next after the Date of this our present Grant settle on the said Tract of Land hereby granted so many Families as shall amount to one Family for every Thousand Acres of the same Tract; Or if they our said Grantees or one of them their or one of their Heirs or Assigns shall not also within three Years to be computed as aforesaid plant and effectually cultivate at the least three Acres for every Fifty Acres of such of the hereby granted Land as are capable of Cultivation; Or if they Our said Grantees or any of their or theirs or any of their Heirs or Assigns or any other person or persons by their Privy, Consent, or Procurement shall fell cut down or otherwise destroy any of the Pine Trees by these Presents reserved to us, Our Heirs and Successors or hereby Intended so to be without the Royal License of Us, Our Heirs or Successors for so doing first had and obtained, that then and in any of these Cases this our present Grant and every thing therein contained shall cease and be absolutely void and the Lands and Premises hereby granted shall revert to and vest in Us, Our Heirs and Successors as if this our present Grant had not been made any Thing hereinbefore contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding. Provided further and upon Condition also nevertheless And we do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors direct and appoint that this our present Grant shall be registered and entered on Record within Six Months from the Date thereof in our Secretary's Office in our City of New York in our said Province of New York in one of the Books of Patents there remaining and that a Docquet thereof shall be also entered in our Auditor's office there for our said Province of New York and that in Default thereof this our present Grant shall be void and of none Effect any Thing before in these Presents contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. And We do moreover of our especial Grace certain Knowledge and meer Motion consent and agree, That this our present Grant being registered recorded and a Docquet thereof made as before directed and appointed shall be good and effectual in the Law to all Intents, Constructions and Purposes whatsoever

against Us, Our Heirs and Successors notwithstanding any miswriting, misbounding, misnaming or other Imperfection or Omission of, in, or in any wise concerning the above granted or hereby mentioned or intended to be granted Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments and Premises or any part thereof. In Testimony whereof We have caused these our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of our said Province of New York to be hereunto affixed. Witness our said trusty and well beloved William Tryon Esquire our said Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over our said Province of New York and the Territories depending thereon in America Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the same at our Fort in our City of New York the Third Day of June in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and Seventy two, and of our Reign the Twelfth First Skin Line Sixteen a Razure filled up and Line Thirty eight the word *Lot* wrote on Razure and Line forty four the word *the* interlined and Second Skin Line forty six the word *being* also wrote on Razure.

WM TRYON

[Seal]

Clarke

NEW YORK SECRETARY'S OFFICE 12th June 1772

The within Letters Patent are recorded in this Office in Lib: Patents
No. 16

GEO BANYAT D Secry

NEW YORK AUDITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE 13th June 1772

The within Letters Patent are Docquetted in this Office

GEO BANYAT Depy Audr.

III.

COPY OF ANDREW POWERS'S LETTER.

THE following is a copy of Powers's letter as entered in Proprietors' Book for Pomfret, page 26 : —

To the Proprietors of New Pomfrett in Newyork government Worthy Surs. I have made a Purches of Lands of Esqr Oliver Willard Supposing it to Be in Woodstock But Since you have Run your Line Between Woodstock and your township hef Taken in all my Improve-ments and Five more Setlers Which I have Sold Lotts to the mesure of Lands you have taken into your Township of my Purches is to the amount of about 354 acres &c. S^r I Being a man Something advansed In years But threw Divine goodness in Sound helth of Body Likewise the Rest of sd Setlers are helthy Well young men with their families. But all of us Poor and Oure Whole Dependence on Sd Lands fur our Living and Now S^r We freely own oure Selves Pomfrett Setlers and with all that in us Lies Shall Strive to Promote the further Settlement of Sd Town Now going on the Third year I have Workt in Sd Lands and have got in a Comfortable Way to Live and S^r Should Be greatly gratified if you Will grant me Sd Lands By a vote Which I presume the judgment of men will judge oure Being Setlers in your Town Advances it as much as the Price of Sd Land at the time we Came on it and S^r your Complience With this my humble Request Will grately oblige Surs your Humble Sarvent
ANDREW POWERS.

Whereas this Letter above Written was Presented to the Proprietors of New Pomfret at their Meeting holden at Pomfrett in Connecticut on the 25th day of December A. D. 1770 for their Consideration and Being Duly Considered and Discorsed upon in sd Meeting the sd Proprietors moved the Moderator Whether sd Andrew Powers Should hold and injoy the Whole of the Lands By him Purchesed of oliver Willard Esq that Lie within the Township of New Pomfrett in New york gov-ernment so said and on the condition of settlement the Rhite of sd Pro-prietors Be hereby Released and Quted to him sd Andrew and his assines in Consideration of his Sd Purches &c.

Past in the affermetive

Attest WILLIAM DANA Proprieaters Clark

The line referred to in Powers's letter above was run in a new survey of Pomfret made by Samuel Payn, and commenced the 20th of September, 1770. On the 28th, "then began to run the south line of said Pomfret. We began at the southwest corner of Hartford at a maple tree markt with T. C. and many other letters made thereon; thence we ran west 28° north making a good line of marks one mile to a maple tree markt with number one near water queeche so called; thence we continued the same point making a good line of marks another mile to a birch tree markt with number two near Beaver Brook so called; thence continued the same point of compass making a line of marks to a maple tree markt with number three near mountain brook so called; thence continued the same point of compass making a line of marks to a box-wood tree markt with number four on the easterly side of a hill; thence continued the same point of compass making a good line of marks to a maple tree markt with number five on the northerly side of a hill; thence continued the same point of compass making a good line of marks half a mile to the southwest corner of Pomfret to a small beach tree markt with letters J. W. D. — W. Dana; S. P. and a number of trees markt round the corner on the northerly side of a hill; said tree is markt with letters as aforesaid and Pomfret Rit in full."

NOTE. "The number of rods between the old S[outh] line of Pomfret which Theophilus Chandler ran and the line that Samuel Payn ran is 118 [?] rods &c."

The committee who attended this survey were Simeon Sessions, William Dana, John Chedle.

IV.

GRAND LIST OF 1787 AND LIST OF TOWN REPRESENTATIVES, TOWN CLERKS, AND SELECTMEN.

GRAND LIST OF 1787.

	£	s.		£	s.
Stephen Alvord	25	00	Enoch Cleaveland	9	00
Ephraim Allen	11	00	Ephraim Clafflin	9	00
Nathan Avery	13	00	James Cady	24	00
Joshua Austin	10	00	Asa Call	9	00
Ephraim Brewster	31	10	Ezra W. Cummins	10	00
Rufus Basset	10	00	Josiah Clark	16	00
Saml. Bennet	15	10	James Clark	10	00
Jabez Bennet	55	00	John M. Call	12	00
Sylvanus Bennet	18	00	Timo. Cox	25	00
Nehh. Bessee	11	00	Daniel Cox	7	00
Arthur Bennet	25	00	Allin Carpenter	13	00
Anthony Bessee	17	00	Timo. Clafflin	8	00
Elijah Bayley	37	10	Joseph Call	9	00
Jonathan Benjamin	21	00	Samuel Dammon	9	00
William Benjamin	29	00	Amasa Delano	36	00
Benjamin Burtch	117	00	Josiah Dunham	25	00
William Bennet	17	00	John Darling, 2d. . . .	15	00
Abisha Besse	14	10	Joseph Darling, 2d. . . .	6	00
William Barns	20	00	Simon Davis	39	10
Joseph Barns	6	00	Simon Davis, Jr. . . .	17	00
Jacob Bevins	25	00	Phins. Davis	6	00
Isaac Bisbee	7	10	John Darling	11	00
Jonas Benjamin	6	00	Ebenr. Dike	21	00
James Cobb	39	00	Joseph Darling	28	00
Joseph Churchill	38	00	Samuel Dutton	68	00
Ichabod Churchill	47	00	Samson Davis	6	00
Edward Church	18	00	Ephraim Eddy	22	00
John Cottle	23	00	Thos. Ellis, Jr. . . .	29	00
Sylvanus Cottle	31	00	Wm. Ellis	15	00
Joseph Cottle	27	00	Daniel Edson	10	10
Nathan Cook	25	10	Abel Emmons	33	10
Warren Cottle	39	10	John Ellis	20	10
Rufus Carpenter	36	00	Thomas Ellis	42	00
Jabez Cottle	26	00	Nathan Eddy	32	00
Ebenr. Call	17	00	James Emerson	33	00
Nehemiah Curtis	12	15	James Emerson, Jr. . . .	41	10

	£	s.		£	s.
Benja. Emmons	74	00	George Lake	28	00
Solo. Emmons	20	00	Nathaniel Ladd	48	00
Wm. Fuller	33	00	Thomas Lamphere	6	00
Seth Fuller	15	00	Nehh. Mack	16	00
Saml. Fuller	28	00	Nehh. Mack, Jr. . . .	14	00
Consider Fuller	11	10	David Mack	12	10
Edmund Fletcher	9	00	Benja. Mack	9	15
Jonathan Farnsworth	40	00	Hezekiah Mack	14	00
Nathan Fletcher	36	00	Wm. McClay	53	00
Nathan Fletcher, Jr. . . .	6	00	Joel Matthews	22	10
Stephen Farnsworth	30	00	Jonas Matthews	25	10
Elijah Field	16	00	Saml. Matthews	21	10
Samuel Field	13	00	Frederick Meacham	26	00
James Fletcher	9	00	Dan Niles	9	10
Samuel Freeman	6	00	James Nichols	25	00
Estate of Billy Gray	16	00	Elijah Norton	30	00
Asa Green	12	00	Stephen Paddock	9	00
Vespasian Hoisington	9	00	Elisha Perkins	10	00
John S. Hoisington	9	00	Ichabod Perry	29	00
James Herwood	35	00	Ezra Perry	14	00
Abner Herwood	14	00	James Perry	22	00
Asael Hoisington	38	00	Stephen Powers	78	00
Edmund Harvey	19	00	Stephen Powers, Jr. . . .	9	00
John Hammond	21	10	William Paddock	18	10
Jabez Hammond	12	00	Gaius Paddock	13	00
John Hurlbut	33	10	Eleazer Parker	18	10
Nathan Howland	49	10	Saml. Pratt	17	00
Israel Houghton	33	00	Amasa Powers	30	00
Jacob Holt	22	00	Gershom Palmer	34	00
Elemuck Harlow	25	00	Nathaniel Pool	28	10
John Haize	15	00	Daniel Perry	42	00
Robert Hill	6	00	Ezekiel Palmer	26	10
Philip Hammond	6	00	Nathan Perkins	18	00
Timo. Knox	23	00	Joseph Pratt	16	00
Jacob Kendall	14	10	Abel Paine	10	00
Jonathan Kingsley	19	00	Oliver Palmer	11	00
Jonathan Kingsley, Jr. . . .	30	00	John Pratt	6	00
Abraham Kendall	30	00	Silas Perrin	13	10
Ebenr. Kingsley	9	00	Widow E. Powers	12	00
Asseneth Killum	63	00	Asael Powers	9	00
Robert Knowlton	11	00	Lysander Richardson	12	00
Nathaniel Killum	14	00	Richard Ransom	63	10
Josiah Lamb	35	00	John Ransom	50	00
Abijah Lamphere	9	00	Sylvanus Raymond	15	00
Luke Lamphere	6	00	William Raymond	26	00

£	s.	£	s.
Elijah Royce	17 00	Phinehas Sanderson . .	25 00
William Randall . . .	17 00	Crispus Shaw	16 00
Nathan Russ	31 00	Beriah Smith	21 00
Benjamin Russ	20 00	Wdr. Desire Slayton . .	18 00
Israel & Jason Richardson	83 00	Moses Spear	27 00
Israel Richardson, Jr. .	60 00	Adam Turner	21 00
Daniel Ralph	33 10	Andrew Thomas	30 00
John Raymond	14 00	Elias Thomas	57 00
Saml. Raymond	11 00	Phinehas Thomas . . .	60 10
George Raymond	22 00	Cyrus Taylor	13 10
Thomas Root	11 00	Nathan Tinkham	36 00
David Shaw	12 00	Robert D. Taylor . . .	11 00
William Smith	36 00	George Thomas	25 00
Joseph Safford, Jr. . .	12 00	Elisha Taylor	9 00
Philemon Samson . . .	20 10	Phinehas Williams . . .	20 00
Abisha Samson	37 00	Jesse Williams	43 00
James Shaw, Jr. . . .	9 00	Oliver Williams	21 00
Stephen Smith	21 00	Bennet Williams	10 00
Joseph Starling	37 00	Sylvanus White	10 00
Seth Starlin	9 00	Seth Washburn	22 00
John Sanderson	43 00	James Washburn	12 00
James Sanderson	14 00	Nathan Wood	18 00
Samuel Slayton	40 00	Nathan Wood, Jr. . . .	35 00
David Slayton	18 00	Ezra Wood	15 00
Amasa Slayton	9 10	Menasseh Wood	5 00
Benjamin Sanderson, Jr.	19 00	Benja. Wood	10 00
Benjamin Smith	12 00	William Wood	23 00
Gardner Spooner	24 00	Joseph Wood	10 00
Andrew Smith	15 10	Oliver Warren	11 00
Jason Smith	3 10	Joshua Whitcomb . . .	6 00
George Samson	19 00	Charles Whitcomb . . .	6 00
Jesse Safford	42 16		

WOODSTOCK, Normr. 19th, 1787.

The within is a true Copy of the Grand List of the Town of Woodstock for the year 1787.

Test.

OLR. WILLIAMS, T. C.

WOODSTOCK, Sepr. 13th.

The sum total of the above List is £5067:16.

JOHN STRONG,	}	<i>Listors.</i>
GERSHOM PALMER,		
JABEZ COTTLE,		
RUFUS BASSETT,		
EPHRAIM EDDY,		

**TOWN REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE
GOVERNMENT.**

1778. John Strong, in March.	1807. Titus Hutchinson.
Joseph Safford, “	1808. Titus Hutchinson.
Phinehas Williams, in Oct.	1809. Titus Hutchinson.
John Strong, “	1810. Titus Hutchinson.
1779. Phinehas Williams.	1811. Joseph Wood.
John Strong.	1812. Titus Hutchinson.
1780. John Strong.	1813. Henry C. Denison.
Warren Cottle.	1814. Henry C. Denison.
1781. Jesse Safford.	1815. Henry C. Denison.
Warren Cottle.	1816. Stephen Farnsworth.
1782. Jabez Cottle.	1817. Stephen Farnsworth.
John Strong.	1818. Daniel Dana.
1783. Jesse Safford.	1819. Daniel Dana.
Phinehas Thomas.	1820. Howland Simmons.
1784. Jesse Safford.	1821. Titus Hutchinson.
Jabez Cottle.	1822. Jasper Hazen.
1785. Jesse Safford.	1823. Jasper Hazen.
1786. Benjamin Emmons.	1824. Titus Hutchinson.
1787. Benjamin Emmons.	1825. Titus Hutchinson.
1788. Jesse Safford.	1826. Richard M. Ransom.
1789. Warren Cottle.	1827. Billy Brown.
1790. Jesse Safford.	1828. Richard M. Ransom.
1791. Jesse Safford, in January.	1829. Sylvester Edson.
Benjamin Emmons, in Oct.	1830. Lysander Raymond.
1792. Benjamin Emmons.	1831. Billy Brown.
1793. Benjamin Emmons.	1832. Jason Kendall.
1794. Benjamin Emmons.	1833. Jason Kendall.
1795. Jabez Cottle.	1834. Daniel Taft.
1796. Benjamin Emmons.	1835. Lysander Raymond.
1797. Jesse Williams.	1836. Tracy Bingham.
1798. Jesse Williams.	1837. John Moulton.
1799. Jabez Bennett.	1838. John Moulton.
1800. Benjamin Emmons.	1839. Oliver P. Chandler.
1801. Benjamin Emmons.	1840. Oliver P. Chandler.
1802. Benjamin Emmons.	1841. Oliver P. Chandler.
1803. Benjamin Emmons.	1842. Andrew Tracy.
1804. Titus Hutchinson.	1843. Andrew Tracy.
1805. Jabez Cottle.	1844. Andrew Tracy.
1806. Titus Hutchinson.	1845. Nathan T. Churchill.

1846. Nathan T. Churchill.	1863. Oliver P. Chandler.
1847. Julius Converse.	1864. Lewis Pratt.
1848. Julius Converse.	1865. Lewis Pratt.
1849. Julius Converse.	1866. Charles Marsh.
1850. Thomas E. Powers.	1867. Julius Converse.
1851. Thomas E. Powers.	1868. Julius Converse.
1852. Thomas E. Powers.	1869. Lorenzo Richmond.
1853. Peter T. Washburn.	1870. Lorenzo Richmond.
1854. Peter T. Washburn.	1872. Dr. Henry Boynton.
1855. Thomas E. Powers.	1874. Dr. Henry Boynton.
1856. Thomas E. Powers.	1876. Warren C. French.
1857. George R. Chapman.	1878. Horace C. Lockwood.
1858. George R. Chapman.	1880. Justin F. McKenzie.
1859. George R. Chapman.	1882. Larnard C. Kendall.
1860. Eliakim Johnson.	1884. George B. French.
1861. Eliakim Johnson.	1886. Charles P. Marsh.
1862. Oliver P. Chandler.	

TOWN CLERKS.

1773. Joab Hoisington elected town clerk, and held the office till 1778, when Oliver Farnsworth was elected.¹
1780. Gershom Palmer elected; held the office till 1784, when Oliver Williams was elected and held the office till his decease in 1823.
1823. July 5, Eliphalet Dunham elected and held the office till 1826, when Norman Williams was elected. He declined a reelection, and in 1827 Eliphalet Dunham was elected and held the office till 1832, when Henry C. Denison was elected. He resigned in 1835, and Nahum Haskell was elected; died, fall 1867.
1868. John Eaton was elected and retained the office till 1884, when George W. Paul was elected.

SELECTMEN.

1773. Benjamin Emmons, Supervisor.
1774. Asa Whitcomb, Supervisor.
1775. Benjamin Emmons, Supervisor.
1776. Dr. Stephen Powers, Deacon Emmons, and Joab Hoisington.

¹ Joab Hoisington died about February, 1777. No records of town meetings for that year. At March meeting, 1778, Oliver Farnsworth was chosen town clerk.

1778. Benjamin Emmons, Nathan Howland, Phinehas Williams, Joseph Safford, Oliver Farnsworth.
1779. Joseph Safford, Phinehas Williams, Jabez Cottle, Samuel Dutton, Ephraim Brewster.
1780. Phinehas Williams, Jabez Cottle, John Strong, Charles Killam, Oliver Farnsworth.
1781. Phinehas Williams, Jabez Cottle, John Strong, Charles Killam, Phinehas Thomas.
1782. John Strong, Phinehas Williams, Jabez Cottle, Phinehas Thomas, Charles Killam.
1783. Phinehas Williams, John Strong, Jabez Cottle, Phinehas Thomas, Charles Killam.
1784. Abishai Samson, Phinehas Williams, Daniel Perry, John Strong, Stephen Smith.
1785. Israel Richardson, Phinehas Williams, Abishai Samson, Daniel Perry, Elias Thomas.
1786. Israel Richardson, Phinehas Thomas, Abishai Samson, Abraham Kendall, Elias Thomas.
1787. Israel Richardson, John Ransom, Jabez Bennett, Joseph Cottle, Jesse Safford.
1788. Gershom Palmer, Joseph Churchill, Joel Matthews, Warren Cottle, and John Strong.
1789. Joel Matthews, Warren Cottle, Phinehas Williams, Phinehas Thomas, Jabez Bennett.
1790. Daniel Perry, Phinehas Williams, Warren Cottle, Jabez Bennett, Phinehas Thomas.
1791. Jabez Bennett, Daniel Perry, Elias Thomas.
1792. Benjamin Russ, Jesse Williams, Nathan Howland.
1793. Jesse Williams, Benjamin Russ, Nathan Howland.
1794. Jabez Cottle, Stephen Delano, Benjamin Emmons.
1795. Jabez King, Warren Cottle, Ephraim Eddy.
1796. Daniel Perry, Elias Thomas, Samuel Daman.
1797. Daniel Perry, Jonas Matthews, Samuel Daman.
1798. Jonas Matthews, Samuel Daman, Daniel Perry.
1799. Jonas Matthews, James Fletcher, Samuel Daman.
1800. Abraham Kendall, Jonas Matthews, Samuel Daman.
1801. Jabez King, William Raymond, Abraham Kendall.
1802. Abraham Kendall, Benjamin Emmons, Jr., William Raymond.
1803. Abraham Kendall, William Raymond, Jabez King.
1804. John Carlton, Joseph Wood, Jesse Williams.
1805. Joseph Wood, John Carlton, Oliver Williams.
1806. Oliver Williams, Titus Hutchinson, Stephen Paddock.
1807. Oliver Williams, Titus Hutchinson, Stephen Paddock.

1808. Stephen Paddock, Oliver Williams, Titus Hutchinson.
1809. George Raymond, Seth Wood, William Strong.
1810. George Lake, Jr., George Williamson, Elisha Royce.
1811. Levi Churchill, Henry C. Denison, George Lake, Jr.
1812. Nathan Russ, Henry C. Denison, Gaius Perkins.
1813. Gaius Perkins, Arthur Bennett, Bela Simmons.
1814. Jacob Kendall, Bela Simmons, Arthur Bennett.
1815. Willis Hall, Jr., James Slayton, Arthur Bennett.
1816. Willis Hall, Jr., James Slayton, Howland Simmons.
1817. Willis Hall, Jr., James Slayton, Howland Simmons.
1818. Willis Hall, Jr., James Slayton, Howland Simmons.
1819. Billy Brown, Lyman Mower, Howland Simmons.
1820. Billy Brown, Lyman Mower, Gershom Cobb.
1821. Billy Brown, Jesse Williams, Simon Warren.
1822. Billy Brown, Jesse Williams, Simon Warren.
1823. Gaius Perkins, Bela Simmons, Norman Williams.
1824. Gaius Perkins, Howland Simmons, Norman Williams.
1825. Charles Dana, Amos Ralph, Noah Thompson.
1826. Charles Dana, Amos Ralph, Noah Thompson.
1827. Sylvester Edson, Asa Wheeler, William Scott.
1828. Sylvester Edson, Asa Wheeler, William Scott.
1829. John A. Pratt, Jason Kendall, Nathan T. Churchill.
1830. John A. Pratt, Jason Kendall, Nathan T. Churchill.
1831. Daniel Lockwood, Jason Kendall, Alfred Simmons.
1832. Henry C. Denison, Benjamin G. Bigelow, Joseph McKenzie.
1833. Henry C. Denison, Benjamin G. Bigelow, Joseph McKenzie.
1834. Henry C. Denison, Benjamin G. Bigelow, Elisha Cox.
1835. John Moulton, Samuel Wood, Lysander Raymond.
1836. John Moulton, Samuel Wood, Lysander Raymond.
1837. John A. Pratt, Oliver Kendall, Lysander Raymond.
1838. John A. Pratt, Oliver Kendall, Lysander Raymond.
1839. John A. Pratt, Isaac Parker, Lysander Raymond.
1840. John A. Pratt, Isaac Parker, Nathan T. Churchill.
1841. John A. Pratt, Ammi Willard, Nathan T. Churchill.
1842. Darius Blake, Daniel Ransom, Bela F. Simmons.
1843. Darius Blake, Daniel Ransom, Bela F. Simmons.
1844. Philo Hatch, Daniel Ransom, Bartlett Elms.
1845. Philo Hatch, Samuel Wood, Bartlett-Elms.
1846. Philo Hatch, Samuel Wood, Ashley Wyman.
1847. Philo Hatch, Samuel Wood, Henry W. English.
1848. Walter Palmer, Samuel Wood, Henry W. English.
1849. Walter Palmer, Samuel Wood, Henry W. English.
1850. Walter Palmer, Samuel Wood, Henry W. English.

- 1851. Thomas E. Powers, Benjamin G. Bigelow, Nathan T. Churchill.
- 1852. Nathan Cushing, Samuel Wood, George G. Raymond.
- 1853. Nathan Cushing, Samuel Wood, George G. Raymond.
- 1854. Nathan Cushing, Samuel Wood, George G. Raymond.
- 1855. Darius Blake, Samuel Wood, George G. Raymond.
- 1856. Nathan Cushing, Samuel Wood, Michael Shaw.
- 1857. Nathan Cushing, Samuel Wood, George G. Raymond.
- 1858. Nathan Cushing, Samuel Wood, George G. Raymond.
- 1859. Nathan Cushing, Samuel Wood, George G. Raymond.
- 1860. Nathan Cushing, Samuel Wood, George G. Raymond.
- 1861. Nathan Cushing, Samuel Wood, George G. Raymond.
- 1862. Nathan Cushing, Samuel Wood, George G. Raymond.
- 1863. Samuel Wood, Henry W. English, Lorenzo Richmond.
- 1864. Samuel Wood, Lorenzo Richmond, James H. Murdock.
- 1865. Samuel Wood, Lorenzo Richmond, James H. Murdock.
- 1866. Samuel Wood, Lorenzo Richmond, James H. Murdock.
- 1867. Nathan Cushing, Samuel Wood, Hosea Vaughan.
- 1868. Nathan Cushing, Samuel Wood, Hosea Vaughan.
- 1869. Nathan Cushing, Samuel Wood, Hosea Vaughan.
- 1870. Dr. Thomas E. Powers, Edwin C. Emmons, Larnard C. Kendall.
Powers declined, and James H. Murdock was elected at a special meeting.
- 1871. Horace C. Lockwood, Edwin C. Emmons, Larnard C. Kendall.
- 1872. Horace C. Lockwood, Larnard C. Kendall, Charles H. English.
- 1873. Philo Hatch, Larnard C. Kendall, Charles H. English.
- 1874. Horace C. Lockwood, Larnard C. Kendall, Charles H. English.
- 1875. Horace C. Lockwood, Larnard C. Kendall, Charles H. English.
- 1876. Horace C. Lockwood, Larnard C. Kendall, Charles H. English.
- 1877. Horace C. Lockwood, Larnard C. Kendall, Charles H. English.
- 1878. Horace C. Lockwood, Larnard C. Kendall, Charles H. English.
- 1879. Justin S. Montague, Horace F. Dunham, Charles C. Buck.
- 1880. Justin S. Montague, Horace F. Dunham, Charles C. Buck.
- 1881. Justin S. Montague, Horace F. Dunham, Charles C. Buck.
- 1882. Justin S. Montague, Horace F. Dunham, Charles C. Buck.
- 1883. Justin S. Montague, Larnard C. Kendall, Charles C. Buck.
- 1884. Justin S. Montague, Larnard C. Kendall, Charles C. Buck.
- 1885. Larnard C. Kendall, William C. Vaughan, Norman Paul.
- 1886. Larnard C. Kendall, William C. Vaughan, Norman Paul.
- 1887. Henry B. Reed, Franklin B. Shaw, Isaiah T. Fullerton.
- 1888. Henry B. Reed, Franklin B. Shaw, Isaiah T. Fullerton.

NOTE. — May, 1773, this town was organized. John Strong, moderator ; Joab Hoisington, town clerk. From this date up to 1829 (fifty-

six years), the town officers served the town without pay. At the annual March meeting holden at South Woodstock, 1829, Hon. Jesse Williams was chosen selectman. He declined serving without pay. The town excused him, and elected John A. Pratt. Mr. Pratt charged the town for his services through the year. After this, the town officers have charged the town for their services up to this time, 1875 (forty-six years). In 1874, the selectmen, listors, overseers, and auditors charged the town \$518.08 for their services.

CHAUNCEY RICHARDSON.

GENEALOGIES.

1. THE BILLINGS FAMILY.
2. THE CHURCHILL FAMILY.
3. THE DANA FAMILY.
4. THE MACKENZIE FAMILY.
5. THE MARSH FAMILY.
6. THE WILLIAMS FAMILY.



I.

THE BILLINGS FAMILY.

[In the year 1861 Frederick Billings employed Henry G. Somerby, Esq., a distinguished American genealogist who was then living in London, to trace back, as far as practicable, the line of the Billings family to which he belonged. Mr. Somerby was engaged in the work for more than a year, crossing the ocean two or three times to make sure of the English and American connections, and what follows here is taken from his report.]

THE family of Billings derives its name from its ancient inheritance, Billing, a place of very remote antiquity pleasantly situated about four miles from the borough of Northampton, in the county of Northampton, England. In this and neighboring places the family resided several hundred years.

The word "Billing" is Saxon and means a "place by the meadow." It was originally written "de Billing." In the Domesday Book it is "Bellinge." The final "s" making the name "Billings" was not put on till early in the eighteenth century. The first two generations in this country adhered to the old spelling.

The earliest notice of the family of Billings is found in ancient records of the time of Henry III, when in the sixth year of his reign (A. D. 1221) a fine was levied between Sarab, the daughter of Warine Falconer, demandant, and Henry de Billing and Wimar his wife, deforciant, of a moiety of three virgates of land in Rushden, Northamptonshire, to the use of the said Henry de Billing. By the inquisition taken in the same reign, Henry de Billing was certified to hold a sixth of one knight's fee in Rushden, of William, Earl Ferrars, of the honor of Peverel.

From this time for about two centuries there is no trace of the family until we find:—

1. *John Billing*, of Rowell, who was patron of the Church of Colly-Weston and also had lands in Rushden. He was the father of two sons, *Thomas* and *John*, the latter of whom died on the 19th of March, 1478, and was buried in Woodford Church.

2. *Sir Thomas Billing*, the eldest son of John Billing (1) of Rowell, was of the Inns of Court and was called to the bar. He was made Sergeant-at-Law in 1453, and knighted in 1458 for taking a prominent

part with the Lancastrian party. When the right to the crown was argued (1466), he appeared at the bar of the House of Lords as counsel for Henry VI, leading the Attorney and Solicitor General. He was the principal law adviser to Edward IV, and in 1465 was made Justice of the King's Bench, and in 1468 Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench. In the spring of the year 1481 he was struck with apoplexy, and expired in a few days after a tenure of office for seventeen years in the midst of civil wars and revolutions. He was buried in Bittlesden Abbey in Oxfordshire, where a large blue marble slab was placed over his body, having on it the figures, in brass, of himself and his lady. He is represented in his official robes. This slab and the slab that covered his son Thomas were taken from the abbey after the dissolution of monasteries and placed at the upper end of the centre aisle of Wappenham Church, where they now remain.

Sir Thomas, by his first wife Catherine, daughter of Roger Gifford of Twyford in Buckinghamshire, Esquire, became possessed of Gifford's Manor, in the hamlet of Astwell, and parish of Wappenham in Northamptonshire, afterwards called Billing's Manor, where he took up his residence. The ancient manor house, although much curtailed in size, is still standing, and now occupied as a farm-house.

The second wife of Sir Thomas Billing was Mary, daughter and heir of Robert Wesenham of Conington, in Huntingdonshire, Esquire, and widow of Thomas Lacy and William Cotton. She died on the 14th of March, 1499, and was buried in the south aisle of St. Margaret's Church at Westminster, a great portion of which church was rebuilt by herself and her husband, Sir Thomas Billing. A sumptuous monument was there erected to her memory.

The children of Sir Thomas Billing, all by his first wife, were: Thomas, his heir, who succeeded to the estates in Astwell, and died on 23d of March, 1508-9, leaving four daughters, coheiresses, by whose marriage the large estates of the Billings passed into other families; John, who settled in Buckinghamshire; Roger, of whom nothing is known; William, who probably settled in Wedon Beck; *Nicholas*, Katherine, Isabel, Margaret.

3. *Nicholas Billing*, the fifth and youngest son of Sir Thomas Billing (2), was of Middleton Malzor, in Northamptonshire. He died in 1512, providing in his will for masses of requiem to be performed at Bittlesden Abbey for five years on each anniversary of his death. His wife was Agnes, daughter of Stephen Gilbert, of Middleton Malzor, by whom he had two daughters, Katherine and Agnes, and four sons: (1) Roger; (2) William of Middleton Malzor, who died in the year 1526 without issue, leaving the principal part of his estates to his nephew William, son of his brother John; (3) Henry, probably of Wappenham; (4) *John* of Middleton Malzor.

4. *John Billing*, fourth and youngest son of Nicholas (3), died in 1526. His children were: *William*, Nicholas of Middleton Malzor; Thomas, who removed to Weekly in Northamptonshire; Agnes, wife of ——— Bodgenye.

5. *William Billing*, the eldest son of John Billing (4) of Middleton Malzor, was also of that place, where he died in 1557. By his wife Joan, who survived him, he had, besides a daughter Katherine, three sons, —William, who died before his father, leaving a widow Elizabeth; *Roger* of Somersetshire; Richard, also of Somersetshire, where he married in Taunton, January 20th, 1561–2, Katherine Wilcox, by whom he had three sons, Richard, Nicholas, and John. He resided at East Lydford.

6. *Roger Billing*, second son of William Billing (5), having, with his brother Richard, inherited lands in Somersetshire from his father, removed to that county and settled at Baltonsborough near Glastonbury, where he was buried Dec. 16th, 1596. From a parchment document containing the names of the principal landholders in the parish, preserved in the great chest in the church, it appears that he was possessed of considerable real estate there, which, by his will dated Dec. 14th, 1596, he bequeathed to his two sons, Richard the elder and Richard the younger, to be equally divided by his brother, Richard Billing of East Lydford, and other persons whom he names. By his first wife Katherine, who was buried at Baltonsborough, February 12th, 1566–7, he had *Richard*, called in his father's will the elder; Elizabeth, baptized January 8th, 1561–2, buried October 1st, 1587; John, baptized Sept. 8, 1564, buried May 31, 1573.

His second wife was Edith Colburn, whom he married at Baltonsborough Dec. 5, 1573. She was buried there July 4, 1605. Their children were: Agnes, baptized Nov. 7, 1574; Christopher, baptized Dec. 25, 1575, buried March 11, 1589–90; Agatha, baptized Oct. 18, 1578; Mary, baptized Dec. 18, 1581; Richard, called Richard the younger, baptized Nov. 8, 1584. He resided some time at Baltonsborough, where he married, May 22, 1617, Susan Rushe, by whom he had a daughter Edith, who was baptized April 14, 1619.

7. *Richard Billing*, the eldest son of Roger Billing (6), and called Richard the elder, removed to Taunton, where he married Elizabeth, daughter of Ebenezer Strong of that place, and was possessed of landed property. In his will he made bequests for the reparation of the Church of St. James, in Taunton, to the poor of that parish and of Baltonsborough, and left twenty shillings to his brother Richard to make him a ring in remembrance of him. Their children were, beside Elizabeth, who was married to Thomas Savage, Richard, Roger, Ebenezer, *William*.

8. *William Billing*, the youngest son of Richard Billing (7), had by

his father's will a house and land in Taunton called Deanes, which passed to his son *William*, who, emigrating to New England, sold it to his brother Ebenezer of Glastonbury in Somersetshire, which Ebenezer, who had a wife Jane, but no children, by his will dated in 1659, bequeathed this property to his nephew, Ebenezer Billing, son of his brother Joseph Billing, deceased, describing it as formerly belonging to his brother, William Billing, then in New England.

9. *William Billing*, son of William Billing (8), disposed of his lands in Taunton and came to New England about the middle of the seventeenth century. He is said to have been one of the original proprietors of Lancaster, in Massachusetts, in 1654; but in 1658, on the 5th of February, we find him at Dorchester, on which day he was married, and the record stands thus: "William Billing was married unto Mary — by Major Atharton, 5: 12: 57." In the same year he joined the company of William Cheeseborough at Stonington, Conn., where he became one of the largest landed proprietors in that and neighboring towns. He died on March 16, 1713, and his widow in 1718. In his will, which is a curious specimen of orthography, the name is spelt "Billinges." The will was not written by the testator, but signed by him without the final "s." He bequeaths to his wife all his household furniture for ever, and one third part of his real estate during her life. To his son William he gives all his real estate in Preston and other places. To all his children and grandchildren he makes bequests, and appoints his son Ebenezer executor and makes him residuary legatee. His children, the first five of whom were baptized at Stonington on the same day, viz., Sept. 1, 1672, were: (1) *William* of Preston, (2) Ebenezer of Stonington, (3) Joseph, who died young, (4) Mary, died young, (5) Lydia, (6) Mercy, born Oct. 27, 1674, (7) Mary, baptized March 14, 1675–6, (8) Abigail, baptized July 1, 1677, (9) Dorothy, baptized July 1, 1677, (10) Elizabeth, baptized Sept. 28, 1679, (11) Patience, baptized April 9, 1682, (12) Prudence, baptized March 4, 1683.

10. *William Billing*, the eldest son of William Billing (9) of Stonington, was of Preston adjoining Stonington, where he died in 1738. He married Hannah, daughter of —.

Children: (1) Mary, born at Preston 24 April, 1689, married to a Boardman; (2) *Joseph*, born 28 Jan., 1692; (3) Prudence, born 12 June, 1694; (4) William, born 5 Feb., 1697; (5) Samuel, born 18 Aug., 1699; of Preston. He married Hannah Williams, and died 21 Sept., 1727, leaving an only daughter, Hannah, born 6 Jan'y, 1726; (6) Dorothy, born 5 Feb., 1702, married to — Edwards; (7) Rachel, born 25 March, 1704, married to — Kennedy; (8) Sarah, born 16 Sept., 1705; (9) Hannah, born 9 June, 1706, married to — Clarke; (10) Roger, born 19 March, 1708; (11) Ichabod, born 5 Sept., 1710; (12) Elizabeth, born 5 Jan., 1713; married — Avery.

11. *Joseph Billings*, eldest son of William Billing (10), born Jan. 28, 1692, was a magistrate of Preston. He married Sarah, daughter of Nathaniel Larrabee of Norwich, and in 1742 was appointed his executor in behalf of his wife. With this generation the final s was added to the name, and it has since continued to be written Billings. Their children were: —

- (1) Annie, born 18 Dec., 1712. (2) Sarah, born 27 Dec., 1714.
- (3) Joseph, born 17 Dec., 1716, married 11 Dec., 1737, Thankful, daughter of — Dennison, and had three children, viz.: Comfort, born 24 Sept., 1740; Sarah, born 15 Jan., 1746; Nathan, born 9 June, 1748.
- (4) *Samuel*, youngest son.

12. *Samuel Billings*, youngest son of Joseph Billings (11), was born about the year 1718, but the records of Preston, which at that period were kept in a loose manner, do not record his birth or baptism. His parentage, however, is indisputably established. He purchased land and resided in the North Parish of New London, which was afterwards incorporated into a separate town and called Montville, known as a portion of the country formerly belonging to the Mohegans. When the British, under command of Benedict Arnold, on the 6th of September, 1781, burnt the towns of New London and Groton, Samuel Billings was among the number of volunteers who hastened to defend Fort Griswold, and was killed in the massacre at the Fort. His name is inscribed, with many others, on a marble slab in the monument that commemorates the battle. He married, 14 Oct., 1744, Grace, daughter of Joseph Minor of Montville, 13th in descent from Henry Minor, of Somersetshire, who died in 1359. By this marriage Samuel Billings had three sons: (1) Matthew, who settled in Ohio; (2) Benjamin, who removed to Vermont and died at Sharon, leaving a daughter Grace; (3) *John*, born 10 Nov., 1751.

13. *John Billings*, son of Samuel (12), was born at Montville, 10 Nov., 1751. During his early life he made several voyages from New London to the West Indies. After his retirement from sea-service he resided at the homestead till the year 1775, when, on the 1st of May, he joined the forces raised for the War of American Independence. In 1778 he left the service, sold his lands in Connecticut, and removed to Royalton, Vermont, settled there as a farmer, and died there 22 August, 1832. His wife Olive, whom he married at New London, North Parish, 10 Oct., 1772, was the daughter of James Noble of the North Parish. She died at East Bethel, Vt., 14 May, 1843, aged 89. By this marriage John Billings had: (1) John, born 11 April, 1773, resided at Troy, N. Y., married Hannah, daughter of Jonathan Brown, of Pittstown, N. Y., and widow of — Douglass, and had a family of thirteen children. (2) *Asa*, born 28 Feb., 1775, died at Newport, N. H., 4 July, 1836.

His wife Nancy, whom he married at Shaftsbury, Vt., was the daughter of Gov. Jonas Galusha. She was born 28 Dec., 1784, and died 16 Oct., 1848. They had ten children. (3) Rhoda, born 6 Feb., 1778, married Samuel, son of Zebulon Hibbard, of Randolph, Vt., and died at Randolph, March, 1816. They had seven children. (4) Mary, born at Royalton, 20 Feb., 1780, married Lemuel, son of Silas Allen, M. D., at Royalton. Soon after their marriage they removed to a town in Fairfield County, Ohio, which, at the recommendation of Doctor Allen, was afterwards called Royalton. She died there 25 Oct., 1840. (5) Sarah, born 1 Jan., 1782, at Royalton, died there 25 April, 1850. She was married at Royalton, 13 Nov., 1803, to Calvin Skinner, born at Woodstock, Conn., 23 Nov., 1777, died at Royalton, 23 Aug., 1843. They had eleven children. (6) Olive, born 29 Feb., 1784, was married to Eleazar Walbridge, of Randolph, Vt., and died there September, 1814. (7) Lucy, born 7 April, 1786, married 17 Feb., 1811, to Leonard Fiske, of East Bethel, Vt. They had seven children. (8) *Oel*, born 18 April, 1788. (9) Marcia, born 11 Oct., 1792, was married at Royalton to the Rev. Orin Tracy, a Baptist minister. They had three children. (10) Sabra, born 22 June, 1794, married to Jesse Perry, of Newport, N. H., and died there 25 May, 1841, without issue. (11) Levi Mower, born 19 Oct., 1798, married Louisa, daughter of Shubael Bliss, of Randolph, born there 4 Feb., 1806, and had five children.

14. *Oel Billings*, the eighth child of John Billings (13), was born at Royalton, April 18, 1788. He settled as a merchant at Royalton, but in 1835 removed to Woodstock, where he died Nov. 29, 1871. He married, March 13, 1817, Sophia Wetherbe, whose father, Jason Wetherbe, of Charlestown, N. H., was a son of Capt. Samuel Wetherbe, who was an active patriot in the War of the Revolution. Her mother (Sophia Farwell) was a daughter of Capt. Isaac Farwell, who served in the Revolutionary War and was at the battle of Bunker Hill. She died in New York, May 1, 1870, on her way to Washington.

Their children were:

(1) *Edward Horatio*, born at Charlestown, April 6, 1818; graduated at the University of Vermont in 1835; studied law with Oliver P. Chandler, Esq., Woodstock; was admitted to the bar in 1837, when he entered into copartnership with Mr. Chandler, and continued in the practice of his profession until his death, which took place the 8th of May, 1844, at Baltimore, Maryland, while he was attending the National Convention which nominated Henry Clay for the presidency of the United States. He was never married, and is buried at Woodstock.

(2) *Laura*, born March 10th, 1820, married at Woodstock, March 16, 1845, Bezer Simmons, a captain in the Commercial

Marine, sailing from New Bedford on whaling voyages. On the 1st of February, 1849, Captain Simmons and his wife, with her brother Frederick Billings, left for San Francisco *via* the Isthmus of Panama, on the steamship "Falcon," and after a detention of over three weeks on the Isthmus reached San Francisco by the steamer "Oregon" on the 1st of April. Four days later Mrs. Simmons was taken with Panama fever, contracted undoubtedly during her stay on the Isthmus, and died on the 24th. In compliance with her expressed wish her remains were taken to Woodstock by her husband in February, 1850, and buried by the side of her brother Edward. Captain Simmons returned to California in July, 1850, and died there on the 25th of the following September, and his remains were also taken to Woodstock and placed by the side of his wife. They had no children. .

(3) *Charles Jason*, born at Royalton, Vt., April 23, 1822, is connected with the banking business, and resides at Fitchburg, Mass. He married, Sept. 19, 1849, Sarah, daughter of Abiel Towne of that place. She was born April 27, 1827. Their children are: Frederick Towne, born at Fitchburg, Jan. 17, 1858; Charles Towne, born at Fitchburg, Feb. 27, 1863, graduated at Harvard, 1884.

(4) *Frederick*, born at Royalton, Vt., Sept. 27, 1823, graduated at the University of Vermont in 1844, and was admitted to the bar in 1848. Married in New York, March 31, 1862, Julia, daughter of Dr. Eleazar Parmly, of New York. She was born there Dec. 8, 1835.

Children: Parmly, born at San Francisco, California, Friday, Feb. 6, 1863; graduated at Amherst College, June, 1884; died, May 7, 1888. Laura, born at Woodstock, Saturday, August 20, 1864. Frederick, Jr., born at Woodstock, Sunday, Dec. 23, 1866. Mary Montagu, born at Woodstock, Friday, March 5, 1869. Elizabeth, born at Woodstock, Tuesday, Jan. 3, 1871. Ehrick, born at Woodstock, Thursday, Oct. 17, 1872. Richard, born at Woodstock, Sunday, Jan. 31, 1875.

(5) *Sophia Farwell*, born at Royalton, Nov. 1, 1826. Married, Dec. 21, 1853, Goldsmith Fox Bailey, born July 17, 1823. He was a lawyer and resided at Fitchburg, Mass. At the time of his death, May 8, 1862, he was a representative to Congress for the ninth district of Massachusetts. Their only child was Edward Goldsmith, who was born at Fitchburg, Dec. 19, 1857, and graduated at Dartmouth College, 1879.

Mrs. Bailey subsequently, on Dec. 28, 1876, married Rodney Wallace, Esq., of Fitchburg, where they now reside.

(6) *Franklin Noble*, born at Royalton, March 8, 1829, is a merchant at Woodstock, Vt. Married at New Bedford, Mass., March 8, 1859, Nancy Hitch, daughter of Jireh Swift, of that place. Their only child, Franklin Swift, was born at New Bedford, May 11, 1862, and graduated at Harvard, 1885.

(7) *Richard Oel*, born at Royalton, Vt., Jan. 6, 1831. Civil Engineer. Died unmarried, Oct. 27, 1852, from injuries received by being accidentally run over by a construction train on the Illinois Central Railroad. He was buried at Woodstock.

(8) *Elizabeth Sprague* was born at Royalton, Sept. 13, 1833, and resides at Woodstock. She married at Woodstock, Sept. 14, 1853, George W. Allen, merchant, who died May 11, 1864, at Woodstock. Their only child, Charles Billings Allen, was born at Woodstock, Oct. 7, 1862, and died March 18, 1863.

(9) *Oliver Phelps Chandler* was born at Woodstock, Sept. 21, 1836, graduated at the University of Vermont 1857, and was admitted to the bar 1860. He married in New York, Nov. 24, 1868, Charlotte Lane, who was born at Paris, France, Dec. 6, 1842. They reside at New York, and have three children:—David Lane, born Sept. 4, 1869; Oliver Chandler, born Oct. 25, 1871; Charles Miller, born Sept. 8, 1874.

LINEAGE, SO FAR AS ASCERTAINED, OF SOPHIA WETHERBE WHO
WAS MARRIED TO OEL BILLINGS.

(1) *John Wetherbe*, born about 1650, was an early settler in Marlborough, Mass. In 1672, Sept. 16, he married in that town, Mary Howe, whose parents were John and Mary, and who was born in Sudbury, Jan. 18, 1654. She died in 1684, June 5. He survived till 1711, and died in Stow, Mass. He was a farmer, and in King Philip's war, 1675, is mentioned as a soldier at Lancaster and elsewhere. Among the children of John and Mary were Joseph, born 1673, Mary, John, born 1675, March 26, and *Ephraim*, born about 1682.

(2) *Ephraim Wetherbe* inherited from his father a place in Stow called Shubbukin, and other lands. By his first wife Eliza Hall he had five children. After her death he married, in 1732, Sept. 18, Joanna Bellows. This Joanna, born in 1710, was a sister of Col. Benjamin Bellows, the founder of Walpole, N. H. They were both grandchildren of John Bellows, who, when twelve years old, was brought over from London in 1635. Their mother was of the same Willard family into which the Wetherbes afterwards married again. The children of Ephraim and Joanna were, Rachel 1733, Jonathan 1734, Abigail 1736, Susannah 1738, Abijah 1740, Joanna 1742, *Samuel* 1745, April 13. Ephraim Wetherbe was one of the original proprietors of No. 4

(Charlestown, N. H.), which was granted by Massachusetts in 1736. Only three of those grantees, of whom he was one, settled there. In 1737 he was a lieutenant and afterwards a captain in the Massachusetts service. Having been summoned to join the expedition fitting out for Cape Breton, he made his will and started from home. He died on the way in Boston in 1745, Nov. 7, a few months after the birth of his son Samuel at Lunenburg, Mass.

(3) *Samuel Wetherbe* married Susanna Johnson. Among their children were Susanna, born 1770, *Jason*, 1772, June 8, Samuel 1774, Betsy, James 1776, Azor, John, Lucy and Polly (twins) 1783, Caroline, Katharine, Tryphena, Lucretia, Miranda Raudilla, born 1796, July 5.

Susanna Johnson, born 1750, Dec. 19, the daughter of James and Susanna Johnson (born Willard), when less than four years old was carried captive by Indians from Charlestown, N. H., on Aug. 30, 1754, to Canada with her parents and their three other children. In Montreal she was adopted by three sisters named Giasson, Jiasson or Jaisson, and for years had every advantage in a nunnery school. The narrative of the captivity by her mother is a notable book.

Samuel Wetherbe was a captain in the revolutionary army which invaded Canada in 1775, and he continued a long time afterwards in the service. As early as 1781 he was one of the incorporators of the township of Concord in Vermont, and he had settled there in 1787. In the first town meeting he was chosen moderator, became a county judge, and for many years was the legislative representative of the town. He died in 1819, Oct. 29, in Concord, and is buried there in the Pike cemetery.

(4) *Jason Wetherbe* was born in Charlestown, N. H., June 8, 1772, and married, Oct. 10, 1793, Sophia Farwell, born 1774, Aug. 5, daughter of Isaac Farwell and his wife Abigail Wetherbe, who was born in 1736 (see above No. 2). This Abigail was a sister of Samuel Wetherbe (No. 3), and so Sophia was cousin to her husband Jason.

Isaac Farwell, born in Groton, Mass., 1744, March 28, was a lieutenant at Bunker Hill, soon became a captain, and fought in the continental army till the close of the war. He died in 1791, Dec. 31, and is buried in the Charlestown cemetery.

Jason Wetherbe felt the value of good roads sooner than his contemporaries, and risked everything and lost much, in constructing the Cheshire turnpike, twenty-five miles from Charlestown bridge to Keene. He died in 1845, Dec. 20, and his wife Sophia in 1855, March 21, and they are buried in the Charlestown cemetery. They had five children, three of whom died young and are also buried there. The two who lived to grow up were :

(1) *Sophia Wetherbe*, who was born in Charlestown, N. H., 1796, March 25, and married Oel Billings 1817, March 13; and,

(2) *Isaac Farwell Wetherbe*, who was born in Charlestown in 1797, April 9. He married there Mitty Tuffts 1819, May 20, and was there for thirty-three years engaged in mercantile pursuits. She was born in Charlestown, Mass., 1797, March 22, but after nine years of age lived in Charlestown, N. H., and died 1859, Sept. 3. Mr. Wetherbe not long afterwards removed to Boston, where he married, 1861, Oct. 18, Louisa Clark, born in 1799. By this marriage there were no children. He died 1883, Aug. 11. She died 1883, July 30.

From the first marriage the following children were born : —

(1) Ann Tuffts, born 1820, May 30, married Samuel H. Grinnell in 1847, June 30, and died 1873, Sept. 7. Their children were George Wetherbe, born in 1848, Aug. 21, died 1861, Feb. 27, Annie Eliza, born in 1854, Feb. 7, Louisa Hubbard, born in 1855, Oct. 4.

(2) Abby B., born 1822, Jan. 3, married 1847, July 29, Josiah White of Charlestown, born 1810, Dec. 15. She died 1881, Nov. 21. Their only child, Frederick Billings, was born 1865, April 8.

(3) Geo. Franklin, born 1827, Sept. 29, not married, resides in New York city.

(4) Eliza M., born 1829, Aug. 25, married 1852, April 20, David A. Gage, born 1822, June 30. They afterwards lived in Chicago and have no children.

(5) Sophia Farwell, born 1836, May 3, died 1880, May 24.

Isaac Farwell Wetherbe, his first wife, and his deceased children are all buried in Charlestown, N. H. His second wife is buried in Mount Auburn, Mass.

II.

THE CHURCHILL FAMILY.

PREPARED FROM MINUTES FURNISHED BY FRANKLIN H. CHURCHILL, ESQ., WITH
SOME ADDITIONS.

1. JOHN CHURCHILL, the first of this name to settle in the Colony of Plymouth, came from England. The time and place of his birth, and date of his arrival in Plymouth, have not been ascertained. He died about the beginning of the year 1662. He was married to Hannah Pontus, daughter of William Pontus, at Plymouth, Dec. 18, 1644. Their children were, as appears from John Churchill's will: (1) *Joseph*, born —; (2) *Hannah*, born Nov. 12, 1649; (3) *Eliezer*, born April 20, 1652; (4) *Mary*, born August 1, 1654; (5) *William*, born 1656; (6) *John*, the youngest, date of birth unknown.

2. *Joseph Churchill*, son of John (1), married Sarah Hicks, June 3, 1672. Their children were: (1) *John*, born July 3, 1678; (2) *Margaret*, born Oct. 1684; (3) *Barnabas*, born July 3, 1686; (4) *Joseph*, born Jan. 1692.

3. *Barnabas Churchill*, son of Joseph (2), married Lydia Harlow, and had children as follows: (1) *Barnabas*, born Oct. 19, 1714; (2) *William*, born Dec. 5, 1716; (3) *Ichabod*, born Jan. 12, 1718; (4) *Joseph*, born May 19, 1721; (5) *Lemuel*, born July 12, 1723; (6) *Isaac*, born May 31, 1726; (7) *Thomas*, born April 30, 1730; (8) *Ebenezer*, born Nov. 9, 1732; (9) *Lydia*, born March 24, 1734; (10) *John*, born May 9, 1739.

4. *Joseph Churchill*, son of Barnabas (3), was married by Rev. Nath^l Leonard, Sept. 23, 1745, to Mariah Ryder, of Plymouth. Mariah was the daughter of Samuel Ryder, born Nov. 15, 1698, and Mary Silvester, married to Samuel Ryder, Nov. 2, 1722, at Plymouth. The children of Joseph and Mariah Churchill were: (1) *Ichabod*, born at Plymouth, Aug. 9, 1746, of whom some account is given in the fifth chapter of this History; (2) *Joseph*, born July 14, 1748, at Plymouth; (3) *Lucy*, born Aug. 22, 1750, at Plymouth.

Their father, Joseph Churchill, died soon after Lucy was born, and the widow (Mariah) married for her second husband Archippus Fuller, and had by him Consider, Seth, Samuel, Polly, Mariah.

5. *Joseph Churchill*, son of Joseph (4), from boyhood to twenty-one years of age, lived with a man by name of Doggett, in Middleboro. He was married to Sarah Cobb, of Middleboro, March 21, 1771, by Peter Oliver, J. P., and died at Stowe, Vt., 1823. Sarah Cobb was the daughter of Gershom Cobb, Jr., and Meriam his wife, and was born Sept. 20, 1747; died at Stowe, Vt., 1836. She had a brother Thomas, born March 13, 1742. Her father, Gershom Cobb, was married March 2, 1739, to Meriam Thomas, of Middleboro. Meriam died in that town soon after Sarah was born, and Sarah then lived with her maternal aunt, Mrs. Vaughan, in Middleboro, till she was married. Gershom Cobb, after the decease of his wife Meriam, married again, and had children, William, John, Joannah, Lydia.

The children of Joseph and Sarah Churchill were: —

(1) Levi, born in Middleboro, April 24, 1772; married in Woodstock, Vt., Priscilla Simmons, Jan. 10, 1798, who died May 23, 1799; married again January 1, 1805, Keziah Fletcher, who died in Woodstock, June 4, 1849. Levi died May 24, 1845.

(2) Miriam, born in Middleboro, Aug. 16, 1774; married at Woodstock, Benjamin Dimock, in 1792, who died Oct. 25, 1797; married for her second husband, Experience Raymond, in 1806; died at Stowe, Vt., July 29, 1855.

(3) Sarah, born in Middleboro, April 13, 1777; married in Woodstock, to Asa Raymond, in 1798; died at Stowe, Vt., Dec. 13, 1859.

(4) Lucy, born in Woodstock, Vt., March 24, 1779; married Daniel Lothrop, Aug. 24, 1797; died in Williston, Vt., Feb. 5, 1853.

(5) Joseph, born July 7, 1781; married Jan. 24, 1813, Mrs. Clara Eddy, who was born at Woodstock, Dec. 31, 1784, and died there, March 2, 1870. Joseph Churchill died at Woodstock, Aug. 25, 1873. His children were: (1) Laura M., died 27 Oct., 1885; (2) Mary; (3) Elizabeth, married Dr. S. E. Hale, resided in Elizabethtown, N. Y., and died there; (4) Frederick M., died Oct. 3, 1835; (5) Sarah; (6) Joseph, died Oct. 15, 1883.

(6) *Sylvester*, born in Woodstock, Aug. 2, 1783; died at Washington, D. C., Dec. 7, 1862.

(7) Isaac, born in Woodstock, Feb. 19, 1787; married Julia Arnold, Oct. 18, 1824, and died at Woodstock, Dec. 7, 1870. She was born in Mansfield, Conn., Nov. 12, 1797, and died at Woodstock, Sept. 18, 1879. Their children were: (1) Maria F., married Edward Johnson, April 25, 1853, and had Julia C., married Edwin A. Vaughan, Aug. 14, 1882; also a son Philip; (2) Delia, married Ward A. Thompson, Oct. 5, 1863, and died at Woodstock, May 7, 1875, leaving a son and daughter.

(8) Susan, born in Woodstock, July 17, 1794 (1793?); married in Stowe, Vt., Harper Sears, and died there, Aug. 2, 1865.

After the birth of their daughter Sarah, in 1777, Joseph and Sarah Churchill moved from Middleboro to Woodstock, Vt., and settled there. About the same time the mother of Joseph, her husband Fuller, and the several Churchill and Fuller sons and daughters, mostly married, the stepmother of Sarah Churchill, then a widow, and the several sons and daughters above mentioned, likewise moved from Middleboro to Woodstock, and nearly all of them resided and died in Vermont.

6. *Sylvester Churchill*, son of Joseph (5), was married, Aug. 30, 1812, to Lucy Hunter, of Windsor, Vt., born in that town, July 17, 1786, and died at Carlisle, Penn., Sept. 6, 1862. Her father, William Hunter, was born in Sharon, Conn., Jan. 3, 1754; lived at or near Fort Edward, N. Y., from the age of nine till he was twenty-one years old, when he went to Windsor, Vt., and married, Jan. 1777, Mary Newell, and resided in that town till his death, Nov. 30, 1827. His parents were David Hunter, supposed to have been born in Sharon, Conn., or perhaps Rochester, Mass., and Rebekah Marvin, his wife, born in Norwalk, Conn. They moved from Sharon to Fort Edward about the year 1763. He died there about 1766; his widow died in Windsor, in 1813. His grandfather was Jonathan Hunter, whose wife was Hopestill Hamblen, married in Rochester, Mass., Nov. 27, 1729. Hopestill was probably the daughter of Deacon Ebenezer Hamblen and Sarah Lewes, and born July 23, 1702. Ebenezer Hamblen died in Sharon, Conn., 1755.

The children of David and Rebekah Hunter were Thomas, David, William, Jonathan, Jabez, Thankful, Sarah, Betsey, and Delia.

Mary Newell was born in Farmington, Conn., Nov. 5, 1757. Her parents were Elihu Newell and Esther Langdon, his wife, who moved from Farmington to Windsor in 1773. She died there the next year and he in 1813, aged eighty-four. Mary Hunter removed with her daughter, Mrs. Aikens, to Westport, on the west side of Lake Champlain, in 1842, and died there April 26, 1844.

The children of Elihu and Esther Newell were Seth, Mary, Deiodamia, Zenas, Lemuel, Esther, Hervey.

The children of William and Mary Hunter were: (1) Lucy, married to Sylvester Churchill, as above.

(2) Mary, born in Windsor, Feb. 27, 1788; married Sewall Cutting, in Windsor, in 1806; died in Westport, N. Y., July 31, 1840.

(3) Franklin, born in Windsor, Feb. 11, 1790; married Mrs. Isabella Cottrell (Curtis), in Windsor, in 182-; died in Royalton, Vt., May 15, 1835.

(4) Sarah, born in Windsor, Feb. 7, 1794; married Asa Aikens, in Windsor, in 1814; moved to Westport, N. Y., in 1842.

(5) William Guy, born in Windsor, Sept. 27, 1798; married Helen M. Jarvis, in Claremont, N. H., in 182-; and second, Elizabeth Jane

Wilson, of Keene, N. H., in 1836; moved to Westport, N. Y., in 183—. Five other children were born to William and Mary Hunter, who all died in infancy or childhood.

Sylvester Churchill, at the time of his marriage to Lucy Hunter, was lieutenant in the third regiment of United States artillery, and consequently they had no fixed residence, but were stationed at various military posts, which shows why their children were born at so many different places.

The children of Sylvester and Lucy Churchill:—

(1) Helen Susan, born in Fort Columbus, on Governor's Island, harbor of New York, May 29, 1817; died there Sept. 27, 1818, and buried on that island.

(2) William Hunter, born in Fort Wood, Bedloe's Island, same harbor, July 8, 1819; educated at West Point Military Academy, and commissioned lieutenant in the third regiment United States artillery in 1840; married Elizabeth Margaret Cuyler, daughter of Richard R. Cuyler, of Savannah, Ga., Dec. 17, 1844, and died in the service, at Point Isabel, Texas, Oct. 19, 1847; buried in Savannah, leaving a widow and one son, *Richard Cuyler Churchill*, born in Savannah, Dec. 12, 1845.

(3) Mary Helen, born in Windsor, Vt., her mother being there on a visit, Aug. 30, 1821; married in Carlisle, Penn., Aug. 8, 1844, to Spencer Fullerton Baird, Professor in Dickinson College, son of Samuel Baird; moved to Washington, D. C., Mr. Baird being appointed to an office in the Smithsonian Institution, in 1850; their daughter, Lucy Hunter Baird, was born at Carlisle, Feb. 8, 1848. Professor Baird was born at Reading, Penn., Feb. 8, 1823, and died at Wood's Holl, Mass., Aug. 19, 1887.

(4) Franklin Hunter, born at Fort Hamilton, Long Island, N. Y., April 22, 1823; graduated at the University of Vermont in 1843; admitted attorney-at-law in the city of New York in 1848, and engaged in practice in that city.

(5) Charles Courselle, born at Allegheny Arsenal, near Pittsburgh, Penn., July 18, 1825; appointed lieutenant in the third regiment of United States artillery in 1848; married at Portland, Me., April 22, 1868, Alice Dow, daughter of William H. and Delia L. Dow.

7. *Richard Cuyler Churchill*, son of (2) William Hunter Churchill, graduated from West Point in 1866, resigned in 1872, and died in the town of Ossining, near the village of Sing Sing, Westchester Co., New York, June 24, 1879. In the city of New York, Nov. 22, 1866, he married Josephine Young, born at Brooklyn, N. Y., Oct. 1847, a daughter of Henry Young and Anne (Mason) Young. Their children were: (1) William Hunter, born at Fort Delaware, Delaware, Sept. 12, 1867;

(2) Anne Mason, born at Fort Delaware, March 15, 1869; (3) Maud, born at the Military Academy, West Point, July 12, 1872 (?); (4) Elizabeth Margaret, born at Ossining, May 22, 1875, and died the 14th day of the following Sept.; (5) Richard Randolph Cuyler, born at Ossining, Nov. 2, 1877.

III.

THE DANA FAMILY.

THE uniform tradition has been that Richard Dana came to this country from England, where he was born; that his father was a native of France, and emigrated to England on account of religious persecutions. Richard (1) settled in Cambridge, Mass., in 1640, and resided on the south side of Charles River, in that part of Cambridge now called Brighton. About 1648 he married Anne Bullard, of Cambridge. She died July 15, 1711; Richard died April 2, 1690, from injuries received by falling from a scaffold in his barn. Both he and his wife, Anne, were members of the Cambridge Church in "full communion." It is understood that every person in the United States entitled to the name of Dana by birth claims descent from this Richard. The name itself is spelt uniformly Dana by Richard and all his descendants; but from the first, great diversity has existed in this country among persons outside of the family both in the spelling and pronunciation of the name.

The children of Richard and Anne (Bullard) Dana were John, Hannah, Samuel, Jacob, Joseph, Abiah, Benjamin, Elizabeth, *Daniel*, Deliverance, Sarah.

2. *Daniel Dana*, the youngest son of Richard (1), was born in Cambridge, 20 March, 1663. He married Naomi Croswell, of Charlestown, and died 10 Oct., 1749. His wife, Naomi, died 24 Feb., 1750, aged eighty-one. Their children were, Thomas, *Caleb*, Richard, Naomi, Timothy, Priscilla, Ebenezer, Hepzibah, Daniel. A few words first about Richard Dana, the third son of Daniel (2). He was born 26 June, 1700; graduated at Harvard, 1718, being "the first Dana graduate;" was an eminent lawyer and a zealous patriot. He married, 31 May, 1737, Lydia, daughter of Judge Edmund Trowbridge, and died at Boston, 17 May, 1772. His third son, Francis, born 13 June, 1743, graduated at Harvard, 1762; was delegate to Continental Congress, 1778, 1783, 1784, 1786, 1787; elector of president, 1789; ambassador to Russia, chief justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, and died 25 April, 1811. He married, 5 August, 1773, Elizabeth, daughter of William Ellery, of Newport, R. I. Richard Henry Dana, son of the above-named Francis, born 15 Nov., 1787, was a member of Harvard College three years; admitted to the bar in 1811, but soon relinquished

the practice of the law, and turned his attention to literature; was one of the association that originated the "North American Review," published various literary works in prose and verse; married Ruth Charlotte Smith, of Providence, R. I., 11 May, 1813, and died in 1879. His son, Richard Henry, born 1 Aug., 1815, first became known to the public by his "Two Years Before the Mast;" graduated at Harvard, 1837; admitted to the bar 1840; attained great eminence as a lawyer; married Mary Watson of Hartford, Conn., daughter of William Watson, 25 Aug. 1841, and died 1882.

3. *Caleb Dana*, son of Daniel (2), was baptized 13 June, 1697; married Phebe Chandler, of Andover, 14 July, 1726; resided in Cambridge; held a large amount of property, consisting chiefly of real estate; died 28 April, 1769, "aged 72 years." His wife Phebe died in 1772.

Their children were: Caleb, who died in infancy, Phebe, Priscilla, Caleb, James, *George*. A word first about Caleb, fourth in order among the above-named children. He was baptized 13 Aug., 1733; married Sarah Ballard, 21 May, 1756, and had several children, among the number Henry, baptized 19 Sept., 1762; town clerk of Brighton several years; married in that town, 31 Aug., 1786, Sally Wilson, and died there 20 Feb., 1817, aged 53 years. Henry had seven children, all born in Brighton, namely: Sarah, Charles, Henry Ballard, Mary, Martha, Orlando Nelson, and James, of whom Orlando Nelson, Martha, and Henry Ballard resided in Woodstock, and are therefore more extendedly noticed in this sketch.

(1) Orlando Nelson Dana, born 10 Dec., 1801, came early in life to Woodstock as clerk in Dana's store; was in company in trade a few years with his brother Henry Ballard; married, 21 Dec., 1825, Mary C., daughter of Henry C. Denison of this town; removed to Castleton about 1828, and died at Rutland, Vt., 12 April, 1841. His wife, Mary, died at Woodstock, 12 Oct., 1847. They had several children. (2) Martha Dana, born 18 July, 1797, resided in Woodstock, where she married Gilman Henry; she died in this town 16 Sept., 1864; Gilman Henry died 6 June, 1880. They had children, James and William D., both deceased. (3) Henry Ballard Dana, born 2 Sept., 1791, came to Woodstock in March, 1808, and entered as clerk in the store of Allen & Dana; for several years pursued the business of trade and traffic in Woodstock, till at length in the spring of 1838 he removed with his family to South Scituate, Mass., where he resided till his death, 28 March, 1878. He married at Woodstock, 2 March, 1815, Harriet C., daughter of Timothy Swan of Northfield, Mass., by whom he had nine children, all born in Woodstock, namely: Henry, died in infancy, William Ballard, Harriet Swan, Benjamin Swan, Henry, Lucy Swan, Charles, Frank, Emily Swan.

Of these children, Benjamin Swan, born 14 March, 1822, removed to South Scituate with the family in 1838; married at Brighton, 11 May, 1854, Catherine C., daughter of Charles Dana of that town; resided at Brighton till June, 1875, when once more he came to his native place, where he now lives, occupying the old Blake farm, which he purchased of Mr. Merrill. His children are: (1) Harriet Cushing, born 10 Feb., 1856; died at Duxbury, Mass., 3 Sept., 1874; (2) Esther Deming, born 6 Oct., 1859; (3) Martha Adeline, born 6 Nov., 1869.

4. *George Dana*, son of Caleb (3), born 1 Jan., 1744, resided first at Stow, afterwards at Ashburnham, Mass., on lands given him in his father's will. He married for his first wife, Margaret, daughter of Dr. Clark, of Waltham. She was born 7 July, 1743, and died 3 Oct., 1770. George married, in 1771, for his second wife, Elizabeth Park, daughter of Thomas Park, of Brighton, afterwards of Mansfield, Conn. She was born 18 Jan., 1749, at Brighton; survived her husband George, who died 11 April, 1787, and about the year 1789 married for her second husband, Captain Alexander Parmelee, of Windsor, Vt. After the death of Captain Parmelee, March or April, 1798, she lived with her son, John C. Dana, at Woodstock, Vt., where she died, 19 May, 1811.

The children of George Dana and Margaret Clarke were three, viz.: (1) George, born in Brighton; married Hannah Lathrop; settled in Sharon, Vt., where he died, in 1821; had a numerous family, among the number, Hope Lathrop, who graduated at Dartmouth College, 1819; studied medicine, removed to South Carolina on account of his health, and died there in 1841. George C. and Horace W. were prominent business men in Sharon for some years; removed to Illinois, George C. about the year 1842, Horace W. afterwards. Another son, Charles E., married in Charleston, S. C., June, 1835, Mary S. B. Palmer, authoress of the "Southern Harp." (2) Polly. (3) Phebe, married Rev. Sylvanus Boardman, by which marriage she had a son, George Dana Boardman, missionary in Burmah.

The children of George Dana and Elizabeth Park were three daughters, who died young, and seven sons, as follows: Francis, Edmund, Thomas, John Clark, James (the father of Professor James Dwight Dana, of New Haven), *Charles*, and Caleb. It is necessary to speak only of Charles and his descendants at the present time.

5. *Charles Dana*, son of George (4), born 6 Nov., 1781, at Ashburnham, Mass.; went to Walpole, N. H., at the age of sixteen, and learned the mercantile business with General Amasa Allen. November, 1802, in company with General Allen, he opened a store in Woodstock, Vt., where he remained in business either alone or with a partner until his decease, 20 Sept., 1857. Wednesday, 20 Jan., 1808, he married Mary Gay, daughter of Timothy Swan, of Northfield, Mass. She was born in

Suffield, Conn., 27 Nov., 1784, and died at Woodstock, 19 Jan., 1858. The children of Charles and Mary Gay Dana are as follows, all born in Woodstock : —

(1) *Mary Gay*, born 26 Dec. 1809, died Feb. 1811.

(2) *Elizabeth Swan*, born 23 Feb., 1812; married Elisha L. Sabin, of Woodstock, 11 Dec., 1834, and died at Woodstock, 26 Nov., 1879. Her husband, Elisha L., died at Grand De Tour, Ill., 7 Sept., 1850. Their four children were all born in Woodstock, viz. : (1) Charles William, born 29 Sept., 1835, resides in Brookline, Mass.; is established as a merchant in Boston; married Adelaide Martha Dana, daughter of Charles Dana, of Brighton, 31 Dec., 1862, and has three children: Charles, Mary Louise, Benjamin. (2) Edward Dana, born 29 Apr., 1838, resides in Malden, Mass.; married Julia A. Davis, of Hanover, N. H., 21 Apr., 1869, by whom he has one child. (3) Henry, born 3 Jan., 1841, married Mary Ellen Wait, of Claremont, N. H., 25 Nov. 1875, and resides in Lewiston, Me., where he is doing business. (4) Albert, born 23 Feb., 1843; attended the Military Academy at Norwich, Vt., about two years; served in the Regular Army during the War of the Rebellion as 1st Lieutenant of the 1st Infantry, and was present at the siege and surrender of Vicksburg; after the close of the siege he came east, and died at Windsor, Vt., 29 Sept., 1863, of disease contracted in the service.

(3) *Charles*, born 15 Dec., 1813, remained in Woodstock; followed his father's occupation, and died here 5 July, 1884. He received the honorary degree of A. M. at Dartmouth College in 1858, and also at the University of Vermont, in 1859; married Charitie Scott Loomis, daughter of Jeduthun Loomis, Esq., 16 Feb., 1848, at Montpelier, Vt., and his children are : (1) Mary Loomis, born 28 July, 1850; died 30 June, 1855. (2) Charles Loomis, born 25 March, 1852; graduated at Dartmouth College, 1872; studied medicine, and received the degree of M. D. at Nat. Med. Coll., New York, 1876; do. Coll. P. and S., N. Y., 1877; Prof. Phys. Wom. Med. Coll., N. Y., 1880; married Miss Lilian Farley, of New York, 27 Apr., 1882, and has two children. (3) Harold Swan, born 27 Sept., 1854; is established as a merchant in Woodstock. (4) John Cotton, born 19 August, 1856; graduated at Dart. Coll., 1878; studied law in the office of Bristow, Peet & Opdyke, New York, and was admitted to the bar in that city; removed to Colorado, April, 1884, and is now established at Glenwood Springs, in the employ of the Grand River Coal and Coke Company. (5) Edward Cushing, born 23 Jan., 1863, took up the business of printer; removed to Colorado in 1887, and is now residing at Aspen, near Glenwood Springs. (6) Joseph Loomis, born 6 March, 1865; is residing in Woodstock, following the business of merchant.

(4) *Joseph*, born 13 Dec., 1815, began business life as a merchant at Worcester, Mass., in 1837; removed to Rochester, N. Y., in 1840; left that city Dec., 1842, and became established in business at Woodstock, where he remained till his death, 22 April, 1857; married Eliza, daughter of Caleb Garfield, of West Townshend, Vt., 21 Sept., 1847; had two children: (1) William Swan, born 1 January, 1851; graduated at Dart. Coll., 1871; taught school about four years; studied law at Clinton, Mass., and was admitted to the bar at Worcester, in 1878, and in 1879 established himself in the practice of his profession at Turners Falls, where he is now residing; married Sarah, daughter of Thomas Salmon, of that place, 4 Jan., 1883. (2) Frederick, born 25 May, 1854; died in infancy.

(5) *Charlotte Maria*, born 7 April, 1818; married to Charles S. Raymond, 15 July, 1840; removed to Bridgewater in Nov., 1842, where she is still living, having survived her husband, who died 20 June, 1883. The children are: (1) Charles, born at Woodstock, 16 June, 1841; married for his first wife Mary A. Marsh, daughter of Ziba A. Marsh, of Bridgewater, 30 Sept., 1863. She died 28 May, 1866, and he married for his second wife Ellen R. Walker (widow), daughter of George Dimmick, of Sharon, Vt., and has two children, Charles Stuart and Frank Swan; is established in trade at Ludlow, Vt. (2) William C., born 9 Nov., 1844; resides in Bridgewater; married Lucia Ann Merrill, daughter of Sanford Merrill, of Bridgewater, 1 Jan., 1866, and has one son, Edward Dana, born 8 June, 1868, now in Amherst College. (3) Edward D., born 27 July, 1849; died 20 March, 1851. (4) Frank Isaiah, born 30 June, 1853; died 24 July, 1861.

(6) *Edward*, born 26 July, 1820; went to Utica, N. Y., in 1836, where he served his apprenticeship at the hardware trade under his Uncle James; went to New York in 1846, and followed his trade on Pearl Street, with W. J. Buck & Co.; in 1848 became established in business in Boston, and continued in business till his death, which occurred at Vineyard Haven, Martha's Vineyard, 11 Aug., 1883. June 1, 1870, he married Frances Swan, daughter of Rev. Robert Southgate, at Woodstock, and the children of this marriage are as follows, viz.: (1) Robert Swan, born at Woodstock, 20 Nov., 1871. (2) Mary Cotton, born at Woodstock, 20 Nov., 1882. (3) Edward Swan, born at Brookline, Mass., 22 Nov., 1883.

(7) *Henry Swan*, born 17 Oct., 1823; resides at Woodstock.

(8) *Mary Gay*, born 5 Sept., 1827; resided in Woodstock, where she died, 29 April, 1864.

Benjamin, fifth son of Richard Dana (1), had a son Isaac, to whom was born, 29 Jan., 1740, John Winchester Dana. This John Winchester married Hannah Pope, daughter of Major-General Israel Putnam,

25 Oct., 1764; not far from the year 1776 he moved from Connecticut to Vermont and settled in the adjoining town of Pomfret. He had a son Daniel, born 23 March, 1778, who settled in Woodstock about the year 1813; was Colonel of the 31st Regiment U. S. Infantry in the war of 1812, and fought at the battle of Plattsburg. He married for his first wife Persis Brown, by whom he had a numerous family; for his second wife he married, 4 March, 1840, Mrs. Abigail Dudley of Woodstock. He died 3 Sept., 1848. His son George W. was a merchant in this town a few years; removed West about the year 1843. Of the other children some have died, and the rest have removed from Woodstock.

IV.

THE MACKENZIE FAMILY.

THE Monroes and the Mackenzies are among the oldest families in Scotland. It is not considered necessary, however, in the present register to go further back in the line of the Monroes than Captain David Monro (1), who was shot in the Battle of the Boyne July 1, 1690. He married Mary Davis, daughter of Sir John Davis, of Whitehall Carrickfergus, and left one son, *Joseph* (2), who in 1695 married Elizabeth Ross of Balblain. They suffered much from lawsuits and various unjust attempts on their property, which came to be much reduced by mortgages, then called "wadsets." They left two children, *David* and *Margaret*.

3. *David Monro*, son of *Joseph* (2), became a distinguished lawyer in Edinburgh, where he flourished, from about 1720 to 1760, as a prominent and successful business man. He was a writer to the Signet in Edinburgh, and through his success in business was enabled to redeem a part of the estate of his ancestors. Among other portions he repurchased the estate of Mickle Allan from the creditors of his uncle, John Monro, brother to *Joseph*. He died in 1767, unmarried and without issue.

4. *Margaret Monro*, daughter of *Joseph* (2), married John Mackenzie, who resided near Inverness and had corn-mills there. Five sons were born to this marriage, namely: *David*, *Malcomb*, *Alexander*, *Charles*, *Joseph*; but dates of birth are not at command. Our business at the present time is only with *Charles* and *Joseph*.

5. *Charles Mackenzie*, son of *Margaret* (4), took the name of Monro at the request of his uncle, David Monro, who had settled on him the estate of Mickle Allan. He married for his first wife Mary Macleod, daughter of Laird of Granils, in 1769. She died in 1800, leaving no issue, and *Charles* married for his second wife Catherine Houston, eldest daughter of Hugh Houston, Esq., of Craik, Sutherlandshire, by whom he had two sons and four daughters. He died in 1818.

6. *David Monro*, son of *Charles* (5), served for a few years as ensign in H. M. 76th Regiment. He married Elizabeth Bennet, only child of William Bennet, Esq., and had six sons and two daughters: (1) *Charles*, born in 1834, became a lieutenant in the 4th Bombay

Rifles; died at sea on board the S. S. Euxine in 1855, and was buried in the Bay of Biscay. (2) William, second son, served as ensign in the 76th Regiment. (3) David, a lieutenant in the Madras Staff Corps and Inspector General of Constabulary of Scotland, married Louise Pelly, a daughter of Hon. Charles Pelly, of the Madras Civil Service. (4) Francis, captain in the Madras army, married Eugenia Mackay, daughter of Charles Mackay, officer Madras civil service, by whom he had one child, Archie Claude Allan Monro, born at Raepore, India, Feb. 28th, 1872, and now residing in Woodstock, Vermont. (5) Robert Clifford Lloyd was lost at sea in January, 1855, when a midshipman in the Madagascar. (6) George Alexander Ross, Lieut. 4th King's Own Regiment, died in the 21st year of his age.

7. *Joseph Mackenzie*, son of Margaret (4), was born in Paisley, Scotland, 1 Jan'y, 1733; learned the weaver's trade in Edinburgh; 7 Dec., 1761, married Elizabeth Calhoun, born in Edinburgh 23 March, 1744; sailed from Greenwich for America with his family in June, 1775; landed at Marblehead the last of September, after a voyage of sixteen weeks, the British at that time occupying Boston Harbor; found his way up to Londonderry, N. H., where he remained about ten years, then moved to New Boston, same State. The family resided in New Boston about ten years and then removed to Hartland, Vt. There Joseph died 30 July, 1825; his wife Elizabeth died 10 Jan'y, 1827. They had six sons and three daughters, namely: John and David, who died in infancy; Charles, born 29 Nov., 1768, died in Hartland 5 Jan'y, 1847; Peter, born 20 July, 1771, died 4 June, 1810, in Berlin, Vt.; *John* and *Joseph*, of whom more below; Betsey, born 22 Sept., 1779, died 11 Aug., 1858, in Hartland; Margaret, born 23 March, 1782, died 2 March, 1848, in Woodstock; David, born 15 Nov., 1785, died 13 Nov., 1800, in Hartland.

8. *John Mackenzie*, son of Joseph (7), born in Scotland, 3 Jan'y, 1774, removed with the family to this country, and while his father was living at New Boston, was sent to Charlestown (No. 4) to learn the trade of blacksmith; settled in Woodstock, Vt., soon after he was twenty-one, bought a house lot at the confluence of Pomfret and Barnard brooks in 1799, which continued his place of abode till his death, 29 July, 1854 (see his headstone). He married Sarah, daughter of Rev. Aaron Hutchinson of Pomfret. She was born at Grafton, Mass., 26 May, 1766, and died at Woodstock, 30 April, 1838. They had one son, *Oliver H.*, born July 15, 1802.

9. *Oliver H. Mackenzie*, son of John (8), by occupation a farmer and surveyor, resided at the homestead; married Clarissa, daughter of Eben Winslow, 1825. She died 5 April, 1876. Her husband, Oliver H., died 3 Aug., 1877. Their children were: (1) John, born 21 April, 1826, died

24 Sept., 1840. (2) Sarah H., born 9 April, 1829; married James H. Tracy, October, 1853, and they have children: Mary W., born July, 1854; Charles O., born June, 1856, died April, 1886; Clara M., born June, 1858; Laura L., born August, 1860; Mabel Maud, born Sept., 1866; William E., born Dec., 1868. Mary W. married Elmer E. Emerson, and has two children; Clara M. married Arthur Ward, locomotive engineer, March, 1878, and has two children, Edith May and Ethel C. (3) Clarissa A., born June, 1830; married Wallace C. French, Sept., 1847, who died April, 1860. They had one child, Charles W., born April, 1858. (4) Ebenezer Winslow, born Feb., 1832; died 14 Nov., 1840. (5) Oliver H., born Nov., 1834; farmer by occupation, resides on the homestead; married 27 Dec., 1858, Eva B. Thompson, daughter of Ovid Thompson, of Woodstock; has two sons and one daughter, viz.: Walter, born 1864; Robert Burns, born 1874, and Helen, born 5 Dec., 1861. (6) John Adams, born Dec., 1841, enlisted during the Civil War in the 7th Vermont Regiment, taken ill in New York and returned home; died 22 April, 1875.

9. *Joseph Mackenzie*, son of Joseph (7), born 11 Aug., 1776, in Londonderry, N. H., remained at home with his father till the family settled in Hartland; came to Woodstock in 1799 as apprentice to his brother John; married, 5 Sept., 1805, Mercy, daughter of George Thomas, of Woodstock; resided in Woodstock till his death, 16 Dec., 1869. His wife Mercy died 28 June, 1856, at the age of 72 years. Their children were, Mary, George T., Joseph C. and John, twins, Justin F., Harriet, Theresa, and one child, Volucia, died in infancy.

10. *Mary*, daughter of Joseph (9), born 20 July, 1806, married Bela F. Simmons, and had children as follows: (1) Austin, born 1827, married Caroline Hatch, and had sons and daughters, viz.: Frank, born 1853, married Jennie Sherwin, 1882; Mary, born 1862, and married to Calvin Wood, 1886; Bela, born 1856; Caroline, born 1867; Elmer, born 1873; Julia, born 1876. (2) Rodney, born 1833, married Mary Balch, 1862, and has one daughter, Cora, born 1871. (3) Ellen, born 1841.

11. *George T.*, son of Joseph (9), born 1808, married Angeline Comstock, settled in Michigan, 1835, and left descendants.

12. *Joseph C.*, son of Joseph (9), born 11 April, 1813, by occupation a farmer, married Mary Shaw, 1844, and has two sons and one daughter, viz.: (1) Wallace, born 1848, married Elizabeth Addy, 1886, and resides in Herkimer, N. Y. (2) Clara, born 1855, married William Mack, farmer, 1882, and has two daughters, viz., Pamela and Alice. (3) John, born 1862. Mary, the mother of these children, died in 1862, and in 1871 Joseph C. married for his second wife Mary Carroll.

13. *John T.*, son of Joseph (7), twin brother to Joseph C., died 13 August, 1841.

14. *Justin F.*, son of Joseph (9), born 5 May, 1816, by occupation, woolen manufacturer at Quechee, married Mary Dewey, 26 Dec., 1842, and has two sons: (1) Frank S., born 22 July, 1844, by occupation, woolen manufacturer at Bridgewater, married, 10 Sept., 1872, Lucy Collamer, daughter of George Collamer, of Montpelier, and has no issue; in 1881 adopted Archie Monro, only child of Capt. Francis Monro of the Madras army. (2) Charles, born Dec. 22, 1846, by occupation, woolen manufacturer, Franklin, Mass., married Louise Johnson, daughter of Eliakim Johnson, of Woodstock, 24 Feb'y, 1873, and has no issue.

15. *Theresa*, daughter of Joseph (9), born 24 Oct., 1819, married 1844, Ransom M. Russell, by occupation cooper and farmer, and has no issue.

16. *Harriet*, daughter of Joseph (9), born 10 Feb., 1822, married R. C. M. Howe, 1844, and resides at St. Johnsbury; they have two children: (1) George, born 1845, married Alma Newell, 1869; (2) Laura, born 1850.

V.

THE MARSH FAMILY.

PREPARED CHIEFLY FROM MINUTES LEFT BY CHARLES MARSH.

JOHN MARSH came over from England about 1633, and settled in the Colony of Massachusetts; removed thence in 1636 to Hartford, Conn., where he settled, and had a numerous family.

2. JOHN, son of John (1), born about 1643; married first Sarah Lyman, 28 Nov., 1666; settled at Hartford, on the Marsh homestead; had *John*, born 1668; *Nathaniel*, born 5 March, 1671; his twin brother, *Joseph*, born 5 March, 1671; *Sarah*, born 17 Feb., 1673; *Elizabeth*, baptized 27 June, 1675; *Hannah*, born 2 Dec., 1677; *Ebenezer*, born 23 Feb., 1679; *Hannah*, born 10 April, 1681; *Ruth*, married Wm. Cadwell, 31 Oct., 1711; *Lydia*, born 13 Jan., 1684; *Hepsibah*, born 6 June, 1686, married 1711 to Jonathan Wadsworth; *Jonathan*, born 7 Aug., 1688. This John married, second, Susannah Butter, 1 Jan., 1708, and had *Susannah*, born Feb., 17 $\frac{1}{2}$.

3. JOSEPH, son of John (2), known as Capt. Joseph Marsh, married Hannah —, about 1696, became a proprietor at Lebanon, Conn., 1697; had *Elizabeth*, bap. 30 Jan., 16 $\frac{9}{8}$; *Joseph*, born in Hartford, Conn., 5 Dec. 1699, married Mercy Bill, 25 Sept., 1723, settled in Lebanon, Conn., where he died, 1753; *Hannah*, bap. at Lebanon, 9 Nov., 1704; *Pelatiah*, bap. 8 Dec., 1707; *Jonathan*, bap. 23 Sept., 1713.

4. JOSEPH, son of Joseph (3), known as Ensign Joseph Marsh, married Mercy Bill, 25 Sept., 1723, and had *Mercy*, born 1725, married Israel Loomis, 1747, and resided in Connecticut; *Joseph*, born 12 Jan., 1726, old style; *Anna*, born 1729, married Pelatiah Marsh, Jr., 28 Dec., 1752, and resided in Connecticut; *Abel*, born 1735; *Elisha*, born 173—; *Eliphalet*. The father died at Lebanon, 1753, and the four sons above named, with their widowed mother, moved to Hartford, Vt., 1773-4.

5. JOSEPH, son of Joseph (4), married Dorothy Mason (for whose descent see below), 10 Jan., 1750, and had *Lydia*, born 5 Nov., 1750; *Dorothy*, born 20 April, 1752; *Rhoda*, born 20 June, 1754; *Joseph*, born 1 Jan., 1757; *Mary*, born 8 Feb., 1759; *Daniel*, born 2 Jan., 1761; *Roswell*, born 26 March, 1762; *Charles*, born 10 July, 1765;

Roger, born 17 August, 1767; *Parthena*, born 3 Nov., 1769; *William*, born 1 Oct., 1772; *Betsey*, born 18 April, 1776, all having been born in Lebanon except Betsey, born in Hartford, Vt. Joseph, the father of these children, was a farmer by occupation, a high-toned, strong-minded man. He was elected the first Lieutenant-Governor of Vermont, in 1778, and again elected to the same office in 1787-88-89; appointed Chief Judge of Windsor County Court, Oct. 1781, and continued to occupy this post till 1796; he died the 9th Feb., 1811. His wife Dorothy died 14 April, 1810, having been born in Norwich, Conn., 9 April, 1732; (see her gravestone, Quechee.)

6. ABEL, son of Joseph (4), married Dorothy Udall, of Stonington, Conn., 2 Dec., 1754, and had four sons and two daughters, viz., Abel, Roger, Dolly, Samuel, Milo, and Sarah. Of these, Samuel married and left Otis, who formerly lived near Taftsville, Vt., but subsequently moved West. He (Otis) had several children, one of whom, a physician, married a Blish, of Woodstock; Milo (son of Abel) married and left Wealthy, who married Luther Porter. Sarah married Ignatius Sprague; Abel, the father, died aged 87.

7. ELISHA, son of Joseph (4), married a Terry, and left two sons and two daughters, viz., Elisha (who married Eunice Paine), Isaac, Polly, and Christiana. One of the daughters married a Ransom, and the other a Perry. Elisha died at the age of 83.

8. ELIPHALET, son of Joseph (4), married and had children, viz., Russell, Sarah, and others, one of whom (a daughter) married a Morgan. Sarah married a Smith, and was mother of Mrs. Dunbar.

9. LYDIA, daughter of Joseph (5), married Josiah Rockwell, and remained in Lebanon. Her children were Lothrop, Asabel, Daniel, Joseph, Erastus, Jabel (or Jabez), Lydia, Clarissa, and Rhoda.

10. DOROTHY, daughter of Joseph (5), married Eliphalet Bill, and had children: — Benajah, Eliphalet, Mason, Roswell, Noadiah, Mary, Dorothy, Betsey, Almyra.

11. RHODA, daughter of Joseph (5), married for her first husband Thomas White Pitkin. Their children were, Thomas W., Lucy, Samuel, Rhoda, Ruth, Rebecca. Of these, Thomas W. married his cousin Mary Bill, and had children: Thomas, Lucius (who married — Wood and lived in N. Y.), Lucy, who was born 8 Feb., 1784; married at Balston, N. Y., Robert Ellis, and had two sons, Robert Ellis and Thomas Pitkin Ellis, both living a few years ago in New York. Upon the death of Mr. Ellis, Lucy married for her second husband Joseph Bishop Abrams, and had two daughters, viz., Lucy Ellis Abrams, who married James Sanford, of Mobile, Ala., and Mary Pitkin Abrams, who married James Stevens, recently of Philadelphia. Rhoda (who was born 1774, died 1858) married her cousin, Dr. Mason Bill. Samuel

was a physician, and resided in Balston, N. Y.; married Betsey Hamlin. Rhoda Marsh, on the death of her first husband, F. W. Pitkin, married (2d) Rev. Thomas Gross, and had two sons, Dr. Pitkin Gross, recently living in Kingston, Canada, and Horace Gross, who died after finishing his law studies.

12. JOSEPH, son of Joseph (5), married Erepta Weld; lived in Hartford, and died there, 16 April, 1837, aged 81. His wife died 5 Sept., 1843, aged 83. They had children: — Gracia, who died unmarried, at Hartford, 25 April, 1858, aged 72; Joseph Henry, who married, and had several children; lived at Oberlin, Ohio; Mary, who married Ira Hazen, of Hartford, and had children.

13. MARY, daughter of Joseph (5), married Elijah Mason, and had children: — Clarissa, Mary, Roswell, Peleg, Myrinda.

14. DANIEL, son of Joseph (5), married Marion Harper; lived and died on his father's homestead, which went into his hands on the death of his father. He died 11 Dec., 1829, aged 69 years; his wife Marion died there, 18 March, 1851. Their children were: *Roswell*, who married, settled, and became a prominent lawyer in Steubenville, Ohio; died —. *James*, who was born 19 July, 1794, graduated at Dartmouth College, 1817, was appointed Tutor there in 1818; was afterwards Professor in Hampden Sydney College, 1824–6, removed thence to Burlington, Vt., and was appointed President of the University of Vermont, 1826, and upon resigning the trust in 1833, was chosen Professor of Moral Philosophy, which chair he held to the time of his death. He was widely known as editor and author of introductions to several of Coleridge's works, and aided much in their circulation in this country. He died at Burlington, in 1842. He was married to Miss Baldwin, of Montpelier, Vt.; had three sons, viz.: Sidney, who married and became President of the University of Oregon; James, who died 1858, at the Sandwich Islands, where he had been sometime Superintendent of Public Instruction; Joseph, a teacher in Canada. *Persis*, died unmarried, 1844, aged 47. *Leonard*, graduated at Dart. Coll., 1827, and received the degree of M. D., 1832. After practicing as physician a number of years in New York, Hartford, and Burlington, he was appointed Professor of the Greek Language and Literature in the University of Vt., and was subsequently transferred to the professorship of Physiology and Nat. Hist. in the same institution. He died —. He married Mary Foote of Burlington, and had children: William, Charles, Mary. *Louisa*, married George Udall, of Hartford, Vt., and had children. *Arabella*, married Chauncey Goodrich, of Burlington, Vt., and had two children, Marion and Arabella. *Emily*, married Thomas Reed, of Burlington, and had children. *Daniel*, married Lucinda Hall, of Hartford, and had children, Roswell, Mary, and —.

15. ROSWELL, son of Joseph (5), died unmarried, 1784, aged 22.

16. CHARLES, son of Joseph (5), has been fully described in another part of this book, and extended mention made of his several children. Some additional items concerning the family are given here. Lyndon Arnold Marsh had one child, Benjamin Swan, born 16 Sept., 1830, and died at Woodstock, 24 Jan., 1861. He graduated at Dartmouth College, 1851, with the highest honors; was remarkable for the fullness and accuracy of his attainments in classical learning, and for his acquisitions in all departments of sound scholarship and general literature. Two children were born to George P. Marsh by his first wife, Harriet Buel, viz., Charles, who died in his childhood, and George Ozias, born 24 Aug., 1832, became established as a lawyer in the city of New York, and died February 17, 1865. Sarah Burrill, who married Wyllys Lyman (son of Elias Lyman, of Hartford, Vt.), had by him four children, two of whom died in their infancy. Of the survivors, Wyllys, Jr., born 4 April, 1830, settled as a lawyer in New York; entered the service during the Civil War, is married, and is now residing in Washington, D. C. Susan Marsh was married in 1852 to George F. Edmunds, lawyer, residing in Burlington, Vt., who was Speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives for the sessions of 1856-7-8 and 9; on the death of Solomon Foote he was appointed in his place United States Senator, taking his seat in April, 1866. They had two children, Mary and Julia, of whom Julia has recently deceased.

17. ROGER, son of Joseph (5), married Mary Chapman, and had Levi, who died unmarried at the West; Charles Chapman, who graduated at Dart. Coll., 1828, married and settled as a lawyer in New York city; deceased. Edward Warren, graduated at the University of Vermont, 1836, married and settled as a lawyer in New York, and died in 1868; Franklin died unmarried, 1856, in New York, where he had been a successful merchant.

18. PARTHENA, daughter of Joseph (5), married Elijah Brainerd, and had Nancy, Parthena, Lavinia, Mary, Susan, Henry, William, Columbus, Joseph.

19. WILLIAM, son of Joseph (5), married Sarah Marshall. She died without children many years ago. He settled in Pawlet, Vt.

20. BETSEY, daughter of Joseph (5), married Robert Ham, and had *Ida*, *Sylvia*, who married (first) James Snow, who died without children; (second) James Benson, of South Royalton, Vt.

DESCENT OF DOROTHY MASON, WIFE OF LIEUT.-GOV. JOSEPH MARSH, OF HARTFORD, VT. FURNISHED BY CHANCELLOR WALWORTH.

I. MAJOR JOHN MASON was born in England about 1600. He was Lieut. in the army, and served in the Low Countries under Sir Thomas

Fairfax ; came to America about 1630, and settled at Dorchester, Mass. Represented the town in the General Convention. In Oct., 1635, he removed to Windsor, where he married his wife Anne. In May, 1637, he commanded the successful expeditions against the Pequots. He removed to Saybrook, 1647, and in 1660 to Norwich, of which he was one of the thirty-five proprietors ; was Deputy Gov. of Connecticut for many years ; died Jan. 30, 1671-2. He had seven children.

II. DANIEL MASON (sixth child and youngest son) was born 6 April, 1652, at Saybrook ; m. Margaret Davidson, of Roxbury, Mass. At the commencement of King Philip war she was sent with her child to her relatives in Roxbury, where she probably died. She left one son, b. 16 Nov., 1674, at Stonington, and baptized by the apostle John Eliot, in 1676, at Roxbury. He married twice, and died at Stonington, about 1737, aged 85 years.

III. DANIEL MASON, b. 16 Nov., 1674, m. 19 April, 1704, Dorothy Hobart, born 21 Aug., 1679, at Topsfield, Mass., dau. of Rev. Jeremiah Hobart, minister of Haddam. They settled at Lebanon, where he died 7 May, 1705, leaving one child, Jeremiah. (After his death, she, Dorothy H., m. Hon. Hezekiah Brainerd, of Haddam, and had by him nine children, one of whom, David Brainerd, was the distinguished missionary to the Indians.)

IV. JEREMIAH MASON (only child of Daniel (III.)), b. 4 May, 1705, at Lebanon, Conn. ; m. May, 1727, Mary Clark, b. about 1704, at Haddam. He was a farmer, and settled in that part of Norwich which is now Franklin, and died in 1779. His wife died 11 April, 1799. They had eight children. The second son, Col. Jeremiah Mason, married his third cousin, Elizabeth Fitch, and was the father of Jeremiah Mason the eminent lawyer, who was b. 27 April, 1768, graduated at Yale Coll. 1788 ; Senator in Congress, from 1813 to 1817 ; died in Boston, 14 Nov., 1848.

V. DOROTHY MASON, third child of Jeremiah (IV.), was born 9 April, 1732, at Norwich, Conn. ; married 10 Jan., 1750, Joseph Marsh, as above ; removed with her husband to Hartford, Vt., where she died, 14 April, 1810.

VI.

THE WILLIAMS FAMILY.

PREPARED BY PROF. EDWARD H. WILLIAMS, JR.

1. PHINEHAS (5) WILLIAMS came to Woodstock in the spring of 1774 from Mansfield, Ct. He was descended from *Robert* (1) *Williams*, of Roxbury, who came from England in the spring of 1638, through *Isaac* (2), *Isaac* (3), and *William* (4). He was the seventh child of William and Experience (Wilson) Williams, of Newton-Watertown, Mass., and Mansfield, Ct., and was born at Watertown, Nov. 5, 1734. He married, Jan. 12, 1754, Mary, daughter of Bennet and Elizabeth (Spofford) Field, of Mansfield, Ct. He was captain of the first company of militia in Woodstock, and until his death (1820) there were two or more of his descendants holding town or state offices continuously.

Children: (1) Experience, born Feb. 17, 1755, and married Capt. Josiah Dunham, of Coventry, Ct. From this marriage are descended, Dunhams, Simmons, Richardsons, Perkins, Westovers, Wileys, Dodges, Smiths, and Jaques. (2) Oliver, 1758. (3) Phinehas, 1760. (4) *Jesse*, 1761. (5) Bennet, 1763–1798, *sine prole*. (6) Roger, 1769. (7) Hezekiah, 1770–1778. Accidentally shot by his brother while going after cows. It was the day that the Hiram Powers' house was "raised," and as all the men in town were assisting, Experience rode to the village to bring his father home (Sept. 4, 1778). (8) Elizabeth, born Nov. 30, 1775; married March 15, 1795, Dr. Stephen Drew, who was a student of medicine with Dr. Stephen Powers, 1786–89. From this marriage are descended Drew, French, Willard, Kendall, Storrs, McConnell, Bowen, Lovell, Hayes, and Wood.

Phinehas Williams died Dec. 28, 1820. Mary Williams died March 26, 1810. The majority of the roads in this and adjoining towns were made by him.

2. *Oliver Williams*, son of Phinehas (1), came to Woodstock with his father, and was a surveyor. The majority of the plots of the original surveys in the town are from his measurements. His health failing in 1818, from exposure as a surveyor, he moved to Woodstock Village, and died there June 19, 1823.

He married Irene (sometimes written Urana) Thomas, of Middle-

borough, Mass. She died at Woodstock, Dec. 4, 1806. He married, second, Mrs. Molly, daughter of Dr. Stephen Powers, and widow of Josan Richardson.

His children were: (1) Mary, born Jan. 1, 1785, and married (second wife) her cousin, Anson Dunham. She died *sine prole*. (2) Abigail, born 1786; married Col. Joseph Topliff, of Bridgewater. She died Oct. 31, 1864; had seven children. (3) Ira, born 1788. Was an officer in the War of 1812. Was in the regular army as quartermaster at Dubuque, Iowa, where he died, *sine prole*, in 1838. (4) Oliver, born 1790. History unknown. (5) Otis, born 1792. A schoolmaster in Woodstock. Died in Virginia, *sine prole*, in 1838. (6) Phinehas, born 1795. (7) Nathan, born 1798; died, *sine prole*, at Hector, N. Y.

Phinehas, above, enlisted when a minor in the regular army, and his relations tried in vain to have him released. Nothing more is known of him.

3. *Phinehas Williams*, son of Phinehas (1), came to Woodstock with his father. He married Susanna White (daughter of Sylvanus). She died Sept. 28, 1790, aged 21, in childbirth. He married, 2d, Sally, daughter of Zebulon Gurley. By his first wife he had: Phinehas, born Sept. 28, 1790; lived in Bridgewater, and had three children. One of them is Mrs. Tyrrell, of Woodstock. By his second wife he had seven children, namely: Bennet, Chester, Susan, Adeline, Warren, Lucia, Sally. These were born between 1795 and 1811. Phinehas lived in Bridgewater and Plymouth till 1812. He was in the army, and in 1815 settled in Ohio, where his wife and five children joined him. Lucia lived in the family of her Uncle Jesse for a number of years. Nothing more is known of this family.

4. *Jesse Williams*, son of Phinehas (1), remained at Mansfield, Ct., until 1775 or a little later, when he came to Woodstock and opened the first general store in the place. Although a boy, he is said to have been at the battle of Bunker Hill.

He married his cousin, on the mother's side, Hannah, daughter of Gershom and Lucia (Field) Palmer, who was descended from William Palmer, the immigrant, who settled in Stonington, Ct. He died Jan. 27, 1842, and his wife on the same day, in 1837.

Their children were: (1) *Norman*, born Oct. 6, 1791; (2) *Lucy*, born Oct. 30, 1794; died Nov. 4, 1794; (3) *Charles*, born Oct. 27, 1796; died *sine prole*, Oct. 6, 1829; (4) *Hezekiah*, born July 29, 1798; (5) *Mary Field*, born May 11, 1800; married Charles Henry, of Bradford, and had three children; (6) *George Palmer*, born April 13, 1802; (7) *Lucia*, born April 5, 1804; married Dr. Willard P. Gibson, and had five children; (8) *Frederick Augustus*.

5. *Roger Williams*, son of Phinehas (1), came to Woodstock with his

father. The accidental death of his brother affected him through life, so that he was of a quiet, melancholy disposition. His first wife was Irene Ransom, by whom he had two children: (1) Laura, who married Judge Hammond; and (2) Caroline, who married Capt. John Orcutt, of Randolph, whither he had removed. He married, second, a widow named Ely —.

6. *Norman Williams*, son of Jesse (4), married Dec. 11, 1817, Mary Ann Wentworth, daughter of Henry Barlow and Rebecca (Appleton) Brown. Through her father, Mrs. Williams was descended from the Huguenot family of Le Brun, and through her mother, with the Wentworths of New England and England, through William Wentworth, the emigrant. Her grandmother was cousin of the last royal governor of New Hampshire, and both were of the elder branch of the family.

Mr. Williams was Register of Probate for the District of Hartford, Secretary of State of Vermont, state senator, and clerk of Windsor County courts. The seals of the Hartford Probate office, of the county clerk's office, and of the State of Vermont, were made during his term of office, and are from the sketches of Mrs. Williams, some of which, with kindred designs, are in the possession of the family. He died Jan. 12, 1868. Mrs. Williams died Nov. 6, 1879, æt. eighty-four. Their children are: —

(1) Henry Brown, born Jan. 24, 1820. (2) Mary Ann Wentworth, born May 10, 1822; married, Dec. 29, 1851, William Merritt Campbell, of St. Albans, Vt., who died at Sumter, S. C., Oct. 11, 1862. Their children are: Mary Wentworth, born Oct. 20, 1852, at Charleston, S. C.; married W. H. Bartlett, of Peoria, and has three children; Stephen Higginson, born Sept. 20, 1854; is married, and has lost a son; William Norman, born Aug. 13, 1856; is married and has one daughter; one daughter has died; Charles, born Nov. 7, 1858; unmarried; Julia Riley, died an infant. (3) Edward Higginson, born June 1, 1824. (4) Charles Storrow, born Dec. 25, 1827, graduated at the University of Vermont in 1847; has lived in the South since graduation from college, and has been a civil engineer. During a part of the war he had charge of the military transportation for the Confederate Government. He now resides in Arkansas, and is unmarried. (5) Louisa Jane, born Aug. 25, 1830; died Dec. 30, 1841. (6) Norman, born Feb. 1, 1835. (7) Susan Arnold, born Jan. 1, 1838; died June 18, 1842.

7. *Hezekiah Williams*, son of Jesse (4), lived in Castine, Maine. He married Eliza Patterson, of Belfast, Maine, May 23, 1826; graduated at Dartmouth College in 1820, was a lawyer by profession and member of Congress from Maine, 1845 to 1849; died Oct. 23, 1856. Mrs. Williams died at Dixon, Ill., Aug. 19, 1866. Their children were: —

(1) Hezekiah, born March 10, 1827; died, *sine prole*, May 14, 1872.

Dr. Williams was medical director of the Army of the Tennessee in the Civil War. (2) Margaret, born Feb. 5, 1829; died Jan. 14, 1844. (3) Lucia Field, born May 9, 1831. Mrs. Goodwin lives in Chicago. (4) Edward Patterson, born Feb. 26, 1833; died Jan. 24, 1870. Mr. Williams entered the navy as midshipman. Was in command of one of the monitors during the Civil War, and at its close was captain of the U. S. ship *Oueida*, which was run down by the English steamer *Bombay*, in the harbor of Yokahama, Japan, on the above date. Captain Williams, after sending off all who could be crowded into the boats, with the remainder of his men went down with his ship. He left two sons. The elder, Edward Patterson, is purchasing agent of the Baldwin Locomotive Works at Philadelphia, Pa. (5) Martin Henry, born Feb. 24, 1835; died, *sine prole*, July 19, 1878. (6) Charles, born Sept. 9, 1836; died, *sine prole*, Feb. 14, 1873. (7) Mary Field, born and died August, 1840; (8) Mary Field, born May 7, 1842.

8. *George Palmer Williams*, son of Jesse (4), was a minister of the Episcopal Church; a tutor in Kenyon College; the first professor at the University of Michigan, and to his death Professor, and Prof. Emeritus of Physics there. He married, first, Elizabeth, daughter of Gen. Joseph Edson, of Randolph, Sept. 22, 1829. She died at Ann Arbor, Jan. 24, 1850. He married, second, a widow, Mrs. Richards. By his first wife he had two daughters, Mary and Louisa, both married.

9. *Frederick Augustus Williams*, son of Jesse (4), lived upon the old Phinehas Williams (now the Lincoln) Place in West Woodstock. Moved to Michigan, married a Miss Sue, and left two children.

10. *Henry Brown Williams*, son of Norman (6), is a merchant living in San Francisco. Agent Pacific Mail S. S. Co. Married Mary Cooke, of Providence, R. I., June 2, 1846, and has: (1) Henry Brown, born Nov. 5, 1847; died young. (2) Mary Louise, born Feb. 16, 1850; married Alfred Poett, and has four children: Henry Williams, Marion, Alfred, and Mabel.

11. *Edward Higginson Williams*, son of Norman (6), married Cornelia Bailey, daughter of John A. and Sarah (Bailey) Pratt, of Woodstock, June 15, 1848. Mr. Williams graduated at the Vermont Medical College in 1846; after a few years gave up the practice of medicine and became a civil engineer; is now manufacturer of locomotives (Baldwin Locomotive Works). Created a Knight of the North Star by the King of Sweden, and elected a member of the Royal Swedish Academy in 1876. Is living at Philadelphia, Pa. Children: (1) Edward Higginson, born at Proctorsville, Vt., Sept. 30, 1849; graduated at Yale College in 1872; married Jennie Olive Bemis, of Boston, June 19, 1883. Is a mining engineer. Professor of Mining and Geology in the Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa. Has three children. (2)

William, born March 9, 1854, at Lachine, Canada; died at Barnard, Vt., of pneumonia, July 10, 1872. (3) Anna, born Aug. 25, 1858; married Wm. F. Dreer, of Philadelphia, Pa., June 17, 1887.

12. *Norman Williams, Jr.*, son of Norman (6), graduated at the University of Vermont in 1855; was admitted to the bar, and settled as a lawyer in Chicago, Ill. Married Caroline, daughter of Hon. John Dean Caton, of Ottawa, Ill., on the fiftieth anniversary of the wedding of his parents, Dec. 11, 1867. Mr. Williams is president of one of the large trunk lines from Chicago westward. Has children: (1) Laura, born April 6, 1871; (2) Norman, born Feb. 23, 1873; (3) Caroline Caton, born May 8, 1875; died May 25, 1876; (4) Mary Wentworth, born May 13, 1878.

(Of the large family of Phinehas Williams there are none of the name in Vermont, and but four males of the fourth generation.)

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